

J&J'S

JOURNEYS

SUMMER | 2020



GOD'S PROTECTION AMIDST CHAOS

We returned to Bolivia the end of July 2019, after a year in the U.S. Upheaval and flexibility feel like the perfect words to describe this last year. In October of last year there were presidential elections, and it sent the country into chaos. There's a lot of political commentary I won't go into, but there were six weeks of protests and blockades. The boys' school was closed for a month. I learned how to identify the sound of dynamite, which seems like a good life skill to have. On one occasion, the boys and Jenny rode bikes to say good-bye to some friends who were leaving the country and, on our way home, had to escape a protest march that ended up in a street clash. We were able to ride up a few blocks and cut across the mountain to our home. We're constantly thankful for God's protection in these uncertain days.



ECAMM EVENT

In the midst of the protests Jenny was scheduled to teach English in Riberalta, which is near the northern border with Brazil, at ECAMM, the missionary training school we work with. Sarah Forseth from Montana was here as an intern at City of Refuge and agreed to go along to help. We are thankful for God watching over them as they had a scooter accident and only sustained minor injuries. While there some of the airports were closed, and they had a little adventure getting home. They waited in the Cochabamba airport for five hours because of blockades before a taxi would agree to take them home which was a 1-hour trip that is normally 10 minutes.

James also was able to make it to teach Missiology a few weeks later. Sarah lived with us for three blissful weeks before being evacuated to



James & his brother, Jeff, preaching in Cochabamba.

the US. We loved having her and getting to know her better!

FAMILY & VISITS

The president resigned, they installed an interim president, and things seemed to be calm for a bit. It was a lovely summer vacation here as we were able to actually take a family vacation to see another friend in Punta Arenas, Chile. It was exciting to spend the week with Susan Massar, also from Montana. We had family visit for Christmas and again in January for Cade's birthday.

EAST CENTRAL CONFERENCE OF THE EVANGELICAL CHURCH

In February a team came from the East Central Conference of The Evangelical Church. We enjoyed a fruitful week of ministering with

them in Santa Cruz and here in Cochabamba with children. Their last day here, there was a mudslide in the same area as where we were working at the orphanage. They flew out that night, but we had a staff appreciation event planned for lunch that day. It was a difficult day for us as we evaluated if we could get there, how bad the damage was and the desire to finish what we had started. Although we had to be flexible, from the time of their planning until they left Bolivia we could see God's hand in all the details.

MOURNING & PRAYER

The son of a dear friend passed away at the end of February from colon cancer. Especially Jenny spent a lot of time taking him to dialysis the last few months of his life. It was a difficult six months for their family from the time of diagnosis, but it's always a privilege to walk with people during trying times and point them to Jesus. We're so thankful José knew Jesus and is whole with Him again, but would you pray for his sister, Lesly, and mom, Mercedes, who have been amazing witnesses to God's goodness but miss him daily?

SCHOOL MUDSLIDES

Due to the mudslides a large portion of the school where our children attend was destroyed and/or filled with mud. School was canceled again.



ECC Team: helping to move an orphanage



José with his sister Lesly



Cade's classroom full of 2 meters of mud



COVID 19 UPDATE

Just like for many of you, our lives have been turned upside down due to the Coronavirus. We were on a strict lockdown for 71 days. We could only leave one day a week for 4 hours to do grocery shopping and no driving. The kids weren't allowed out at all. To enter stores we had to have temperatures checked, walk through a disinfectant shower, wipe our feet on three bleach rags and receive hand sanitizer. It has affected our ministry because of traveling and canceling of educational classes.

TEACHING

Jenny had agreed to help another missionary teach a missiology class at the Baptist seminary and had begun teaching English classes at City of Refuge. English classes were suspended, but the seminary classes went virtual, and so she's been keeping up with that during the quarantine. James has taught several seminars virtually during the quarantine.

ECAMM

The ECAMM training event scheduled for April/May was postponed until August but may be postponed again. It is a large logistical project and cannot be put together at the last minute.

So, we continue to pray for God to lead and guide in the planning and scheduling for the event.

PRAYERS

We always teach that flexibility is the number one quality of a missionary. We certainly have been stretched this year and continue to learn the art of flexibility.

- Would you pray for us as it seems our boys will be taking online classes for an unidentified amount of time?
- Would you pray for us as we find ways to minister to those who are hurting and suffering during the quarantine? We have been helping to funnel monies to those in need through pastors and leaders.
- Would you pray for those who are suffering from the virus? Please continue to pray for our medical system as it is very fragile.

MANY THANKS

Thank you for your faithful giving and prayers during this chaotic time, that has been quite long. We really couldn't do it without you!