

The Oliver Family Newsletter

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Don't Flush the T.P.?

When we arrived at the NTM guest home in Cochabamba (Bolivia), they told us two things: Don't drink the water. Don't flush the toilet paper. The obvious question that came to mind was - what do you do with it? It turned out that each bathroom had a little garbage can expressly for that purpose. So began our adventure in Bolivia with a couple little adjustments.

Virgil Wuthrich (an NTM accountant) and I were in Bolivia to install our NTM Accounting & Administrative (NTMAA) system for our missionaries there. We spent two weeks at Cochabamba, the main field headquarters, training the bookkeepers and helping them transition to the new system. While there, we also installed a copy of the system as an outpost at our NTM Aviation hangar. I had written some special programs to keep track of flight information (date, origin, destination, flight time, passengers, cargo, etc.) and to help our pilot, Tony Murrin, charge out the flights and distribute the flight income.

We ate most of our meals in the NTM dining hall, where two Bolivian ladies cooked some delicious meals; we also had opportunity, though, to visit a couple of the local restaurants. One Saturday, the field bookkeeper, John Enns, took us on a tour of the Concha, Cochabamba's open air market (which apparently is the largest open air market in South America).

After two weeks in Cochabamba, we flew out to Santa Cruz, a major city in the lowlands, where NTM has a guest home and national missionary training center. We spent three days there, installing the NTMAA system and helping the bookkeeper enter her March transactions into the system.

A special highlight of our trip was the opportunity to visit a tribal village. Min Hwangbo, a NTM Korea missionary who graduated with Paula and me from NTBI Jackson in 1990, has been working with the Ayore people in a village about 2.5 hours from Santa Cruz. Min made a special trip out to Santa Cruz to bring us back to visit his family and village. The Ayore work has been ongoing for many years; in fact, five of the first NTM missionaries were killed by Ayore Indians back in 1943. We toured the Ayore village, visited their church, met some of the believers, and had a nice lunch prepared by Min's wife, Jackie.

We appreciated the opportunity to visit an Ayore village and see some of the tribal folks that we are working together to reach and disciple. Missions is a team effort, with tribal missionaries like Min & Jackie on the front line, support missionaries like ourselves, and prayer and financial supporters like you. Thanks for being part of the team with us.



Emergency Landing!

On Friday, March 10, the day after we arrived home from Bolivia, Tony Murrin (the NTM pilot in Bolivia who we worked with) was flying from Cochabamba with some missionary passengers. Approximately 25 minutes into the flight, flying at 11,500 feet over the Andes Mountains, the aircraft engine started losing power. Oil pressure gave out and Tony had to shut down the engine and find a place to land.

There were no airports or landing strips within range (and a falling aircraft does not have a lot of range) and the mountains are not conducive to landing. Thankfully, Tony was able to make it over to the main road (which goes through the mountains from Cochabamba to Santa Cruz), find a straight stretch in the road, and make an emergency landing.

As they were coasting to a stop, however, a double-decker bus came around the bend at a good clip, again raising the possibility of a disastrous collision. The bus driver did see the plane in time, though, and veered off to his right (ending up in the ditch). Tony also veered off to his right (clipping a tree, causing some minor damage to the right wing). When all the vehicles (and aircraft) came to a stop, though, by God's grace no one was hurt, and they were able to repair the plane (after a mechanic and some helpers drove out from Cochabamba) and fly it back to the base.

Family Update



We've been staying pretty busy, as usual. In addition to their normal homeschooling activities, Joy and Hannah have been enjoying a weekly gymnastics class, while Nicholas has started a bi-weekly martial arts class. Paula has joined a nearby gym, Planet Fitness, and is trying to get some good exercise most every day. She would appreciate prayer for guidance and healing for her painful heel, though, as it appears that she may have some plantar fasciitis.

We have been pretty healthy though, for which we are thankful. Paula especially has been trying to eat right and exercise. We have also started taking Juice Plus+, a food supplement containing nutrition from 17 fruits & vegetables in capsule form. Paula is also a distributor for Juice Plus+, so if you would like more info, you can contact her or visit www.JPOweb.com. She is excited about the research studies that have been done with Juice Plus+ and enjoys helping folks with nutritional advice.

We recently had some new prayer cards printed and have enclosed a prayer card for you. If you would like to see some photos from our trip to Bolivia, please drop by our web site (www.JPOliver.com), click on Our Photo Albums and look in our 2006 Bolivia Trip Photo Album. You can also find our current prayer requests on Our Prayer Requests page.

Thanks for your love, prayers, encouragement, and support. We appreciate you!

Your missionaries,

John, Paula, Nicholas, Joy, and Hannah Oliver ©

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