



Step report

Argentina & Bolivia

Report #7

Welcome to our final Step report, #7!

As we finish our time in Trinidad and embark on our travel week to complete our time in South America, we want to take the opportunity to reflect on the past two months. Through many highs and lows, trials and challenges, and some very precious moments, we have experienced an everlasting, loving Heavenly Father who works in ways that we would never have expected.

For our holiday week, we are spending a couple of days in Samaipata (about 3 hours drive from Santa Cruz), followed by a few days relaxing in Santa Cruz.



With a family from church and two of the pastors



Culto familiar (a family service in a home)



Fun with the youth group



Wholehearted!

Highlights of our time in Trinidad

Anna and Amelia with some of the girls



A lovely Trinidad sunset during the Hora Feliz kids club



- Everyone in the youth group was very close. We enjoyed being in a bigger city, and having more things to do in our free time with the young people from church.
- We enjoyed living in the church building, as we were able to share our living space with another family and there were always people from the church around. It made us feel completely immersed in the work that we were involved with.
- The church camping trip was a real highlight for us all! We spent a night in Perotó with people from our own church and some of the other church plants too. It was a beautiful time of fellowship and fun.
- We went to the fair (part of the city anniversary celebrations) with the young adults which was really fun! They have enjoyed showing us round Trinidad and all the traditional festivals and celebrations they have.
- We've been so blessed to be able to get really involved with the church community; getting a real insight into their lives, being welcomed into their homes, invited to lots of events and gatherings.
- The 40th Anniversary of the church was quite something to remember! Seeing everyone come together, all ages taking part in the multiple celebratory events over our last weekend at Iglesia U.C.E. Paititi!
- We have enjoyed being able to improve our Spanish and build strong connections as we've been able to converse a bit better!

Some things we've learnt about God / His character:

God knows exactly what challenges to give us in order for us to grow. The Bible tells us in James 1:2-4 tells us "Consider it pure joy, my brothers and sisters, whenever you face trials of many kinds, because you know that the testing of your faith produces perseverance". And Romans 5:3-4 also says "...we also glory in our sufferings, because we know that suffering produces perseverance; perseverance, character; and character, hope."

God works in challenging ways, as some things haven't been easy! For example the mental strain of Spanish, especially with the exhaustion from work, plans changing all the time! Matthew 6:33-34 says: "But seek first his kingdom and his righteousness, and all these things will be given to you as well. Therefore do not worry about tomorrow, for tomorrow will worry about itself. Each day has enough trouble of its own."

Anniversary celebrations--- look at that cake!!



Some things we've learnt about God / His character:

It's not always obvious how God is working in your life, but he always has a plan. Philippians 4:13 "I can do all things through Christ who strengthens me"

It was difficult sometimes to feel connected / spiritually fed since all the services were in Spanish, but he is still there and still present - always wanting us to come back to him.

There are many different ways to worship God, and even though we have different styles or ways of worship from different cultures, we still worship the same God. I.e. story of Jeremiah, God is still doing his work, no matter where we are in the world.

Even though we might not feel useful or like we're making an impact, God is working in the background in ways that we might never discover! We have to trust that he has placed us here for a reason and give all our effort to the calling he has given.



Reflection

As we return back to our homes and churches, we want to be able to bring back some things that we have learned while in South America. The churches and people that we served have blessed us and taught us many things, helping us see things through a different lens.

Something that inspired us / that we want to replicate back home (in our churches or in our personal lives) include:

- People in the church inspired us with their hard work and organisation skills. They put a lot of effort and time into everything they did, wholeheartedly!!
- People's friendly and welcoming attitude embodies Christ's willingness to associate with anyone.
- It is encouraging to see people live out their faith in very everyday situations, especially in ways that we saw more clearly by living IN the church.
- To have more courage and confidence in sharing / living out faith in day to day life not just in church.
- That family feel of church, always willing to do things together no matter the age, everyone was all together (church FAMILY).
- Memorising Bible verses was very common at kids clubs but also for adults during the Sunday service too. This would be a good way to familiarise ourselves with God's Word.



Sad goodbyes at the airport.

We fully recognise that this trip wouldn't be possible without the generous and kind support of those from back home. Thank you for all your encouragement, help and prayers throughout our time here. Together we will keep praying for these two countries in which we have been serving these past four months, and continue praying for growth and strengthening in the churches in which we were based in Tartagal (Argentina) and Trinidad (Bolivia).

Please pray for the team, as we move into the next chapter of life, as Amelia, Millie, Anna, Reuben, Oscar and Calum continue on to university in September and Ben looks for professional work. These four months will be treasured in our hearts forever.

😊 **God bless!**



Wholehearted mission Latin Link's verse of the year is from

Colossians 3:23, "Whatever you do, work at it with all your heart, as working for the Lord..." Our 'whatever' can only happen because of your support. Please consider donating to help keep us serving: www.latinlink.org.uk/donate