

SOLOMON FAMILY MISSIONS



“Trust in the Lord with all thine heart; and lean not unto thine own understanding.”

Proverbs 3:5

2013, 2014 MISSION UPDATE

News, miracles, challenges and incredible answers to prayer, plus many new online resources.

4 SEPTEMBER 2014

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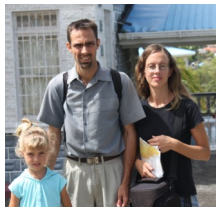
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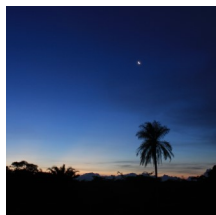
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Dear Family and Friends,

It has been a long time since we were able to write to you. God has been moving steadily forward and sometimes we have struggled to keep up. But He always gives us strength and courage and faith to keep going. This newsletter is full of news, miracles, pictures, videos and online resources that all give glory to God. May this brief account of the mighty acts of God in our lives and in His work over the last 2 years be an encouragement to you.

Light Channel Netherlands Streaming!



In April 2013, most of the global GMI broadcasting team from around the world met for the first time at the NAB trade show in the USA. There were team members from GMI affiliated TV and Radio networks from over 17 countries. We had a very intense week together. Scouring NAB for equipment we needed as well as meeting together to discuss many global challenges and strategies. This meeting changed the way we work. Since then we have started functioning much more like a global team. At the same time, we are much busier as we try and help each other with the various skills we have around the world. After the meeting, Derek headed over to GMI headquarters in Tennessee. Here he was able, by God's grace, to setup a playout and streaming server for the Dutch Channel. The channel is called: Light Channel Netherlands. In the months that followed, the Dutch team worked very hard on producing a lot of content in Dutch and now we have launched the Light Channel Netherlands. You can watch it online at:

<http://lightchanneltv.nl/>

They also have some of their material available as Video on Demand at this website (many videos are English with Dutch subtitles):

<http://adventmedia.nl/>

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VISA Miracles.



Derek returned to Bolivia after almost 4, very exhausting, weeks in the US. We wondered how the Lord was going to provide for that trip as well as for the huge upcoming expense we had to renew our residence VISA's in July 2013. Things got even worse when our VISA's cost nearly 50% more than expected due to factors outside of our control. While this seemed very daunting to us, it surely was no problem for the mighty God we serve. Through many miracles of God's providence and your kind gifts, we were able to pay for my trip to the US as well as the VISA fee for all of us, plus the extra VISA fee! Sometimes the Lord provided at the very last minute. We still remember the day we went to pay for the extra VISA fee. We did not know that it would be so much. We had a little money saved which we took with us. On the morning that we were going to pay the extra VISA fee, Derek checked email 1 last time before leaving. He noticed a notification of a donation and immediately thanked the Lord for His providence and started thinking about how the Lord would have us use the money. Then, as we got busy with the VISA paperwork, we forgot about the donation. After working everything out, we realised that we were far short of the amount we had to pay. For a few moments we had no idea how we were going to make the payment. We thought that we would have to go back again another day after we had saved enough. Then the Lord reminded us of the donation He had sent that very morning. We immediately knew why He had sent it. It worked out that the donation was exactly what we needed with a little to spare. Praise the Lord!

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Darian and Gillian on TV.



Around October 2013, Soné and the children became very involved in a children's production at the TV Station. During the end of year festive season, many children in homes around Bolivia get given the most terrible things to watch on DVD and TV. Becky Gates wanted to produce a better option for the children in the communities near to the TV station and around Bolivia during the festive season. So she began training the children to play a few songs in a bell choir and the children also began practicing individual music items. Some professional musicians, Oscar and Ramiro Ladezma also got involved and generously gave of their time and skill. Many lovely recordings were made. Even though we didn't have a studio or room that is really suitable for good sound recording. Then some other volunteers started working with the children to record some children's cooking and craft programs. The idea was to make eating healthy food more attractive to the children and to give them some ideas to stay constructively busy during the holidays. Darian, Gillian, other volunteer children and some children from the churches we attend, all helped. We have uploaded some of these productions on our new Vimeo channel for you to see. Here is a link to watch them:

<https://vimeo.com/channels/solomonfamilymissions/102634560>

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Spanish and French channels streaming again!



Things didn't slow down. During the last few months of 2013 we started working towards a way to stream the Spanish and French channels on the internet and we started praying for the Lord to open the way. After a lot of research and trying to make things work from Bolivia, we found it was impossibly expensive to stream from here. It would cost upwards of \$2000 per month in internet fees. So we realised that we would have to install

playout, streaming and file servers at the GMI office in Tennessee where internet is much cheaper. But the cost of this was not small either, so we kept praying and researching the lowest cost solutions. In February 2014, even though no funds had arrived to setup the streaming computers in the US, God impressed us to go forward anyway. So, with the help of GMI, and some funds we could borrow, Derek made the flight to Tennessee. The very day that he arrived, a donation came through to pay for most of the equipment and a few days later another donation came which allowed us to finish the work. All glory to God!

After two and a half weeks of intense work in the US, Derek returned to Bolivia, and with God's help, finished configuring the playout and streaming computers from here. Praise the Lord, we now have the French and Spanish channels streaming from the GMI office as well as the Dutch channel mentioned earlier. You can watch the French channel on their website:

<http://tvfamille.org/#tv-direct>

And the Spanish channel you can watch on their website:

<http://redadvenir.org/>

Each channel(Dutch, French and Spanish) has 3 different qualities to choose from, "Low", "Medium", "High". So if you have a slow internet connection, you can just click on the "low" or "medium" quality option. Please be sure to share these channels with any of your friends or family that might benefit from a better option to worldly TV in their own language. For a full list of all the GMI TV and Radio networks and their online streams you can go to:

<http://gospelministry.org/media-networks-2/>

Or if you have an iPhone or iPad you can search for the GMI App. This app. will give you access to any of the GMI TV and Radio streams currently streaming right on your iPhone or iPad! We are busy developing an Android App. and we hope to have it ready soon. Many of the GMI channels will work on your portable device just by going to the website. Some of our websites have special "Android" buttons for those who have Android devices.

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Grenada Family Network.



Two months after returning from the trip to the US to install the streaming equipment, there was an urgent need to help install and setup the equipment needed to broadcast a TV channel on the island of Grenada(a small island just off the coast of Venezuela). We already have a radio station that has been operating for 5 years in Grenada. So we went to Grenada to help there for 2 months. This time we could go as a family. We only had 1 week to prepare for the trip, but as in every need, God was there to give us extra strength to put in long hours. More than that, we were able to collect our Bolivian ID cards just a few days before we left. This completed the VISA process for the next 4 years and enabled us to leave the country without losing our VISA's. Some volunteers who have left Bolivia before the VISA process was completed, have been forced to start all over again on returning!

Pastor Gates was able to help us in a GMI airplane to get to Brazil. From there we took 2 busses to Guyana and stayed in the mission house in Lethem(a town on the border with Brazil) for a night. The mosquitoes ate us alive! From there, Pastor James Ash flew us to Georgetown, Guyana, in a little Cessna 182 mission aviation plane, where we stayed with him and his family for a night and then went on to Grenada the next day. It was faith building, humbling and wonderful, to experience the providence of the Lord as He took us where He needed us to go through the sacrifice of many people and families and GMI projects. This is always how God's work goes forward. Only through sacrifice and self denial.

Besides the work that Derek did on the computer and broadcast systems for the TV Station in Grenada, we could also help to hand out flyers to the public, increasing awareness of the radio station and attend the fifth anniversary of the radio station

event, which was held at the St. George's Adventist church. It was wonderful to hear many amazing testimonies of how the radio station has reached people and touched their lives. Especially amazing to me, was to hear the testimony of a Grenadian medical missionary who recorded a few health programs which aired on the radio station. Some time later he was invited to speak at some churches in England. To his great surprise, at one of the churches he found that the people knew who he was because they had stayed up late to listen to his program on the radio which is also streamed from the [Grenada Family Network website!](http://www.grenadafamilynetwork.org/site/) They pleaded with him to stay and offer his training course to those who were interested and he agreed. 40 people joined, which is a very good turn-out. Not only this, but he had a similar experience visiting New York city and offering health lectures there. People also recognised him from his program on the radio which they heard via streaming from the website. This was very encouraging to us, as we often work to set things up and we have no idea who is being reached. Praise the Lord, there *are* many being reached! You can also listen to Grenada Family Network Radio online(English):

<http://www.grenadafamilynetwork.org/site/radio/>

To find out more about Grenada Family Network, visit the welcome page on their website and watch the video there:

<http://www.grenadafamilynetwork.org/site/>

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Challenges in Grenada.



A great challenge and test of our faith in Grenada was the price of the food there. Here in Santa Cruz, Bolivia, we are able to buy fresh fruit and vegetables at very low prices. In Grenada, however, almost everything is imported, so it is very expensive. We didn't know how we were going to be able to buy food as

every month we would need 3 times what we usually have available each month! Even so, God's hand was not short to help us and He provided as faithfully as always. Firstly, the director in Grenada, John Bartels, and his family shared a great deal of food with us. Then we got some unexpected donations from some friends and family in South Africa who had no idea how much extra we needed at that time. Finally, some friends in Bolivia sent us a large gift which paid for a whole months food supply! God is great and worthy to be praised. A BIG thank you to all those who so unselfishly helped us during this time. You might have had no idea of the great need we had, but by God's leading and your willingness to give we were able to eat.

Another great challenge during this time was when Derek's laptop stopped working. This is the main tool he uses in the work he does. Especially to prepare playlists for the French and Dutch channels as well as all the video editing needed to prepare content for these channels and much more. The laptop was 4 years old and it worked very hard. Many weeks working 24/7. Derek had already repaired it a few times and he tried to repair it again, but to no avail. He was in real trouble without it. Especially to keep producing the playlists needed to keep the French and Dutch channels on the air. Once again, through the same process of unselfish giving, God provided. To solve the immediate need, the director in Grenada lent him a laptop that he had, that was available for a short time. This gave Derek something to work on for a few weeks. God answered prayer and sent two large donations from friends that we have in the US that provided enough to buy a replacement laptop. The new laptop arrived two days before Derek needed to return the laptop that he was borrowing!

Please keep the television project in Grenada in prayer. Almost everything is ready to go. Most of the equipment has been installed. We only need permission from the cellphone company that owns the tower to put up our TV Antenna's and then the TV broadcast in Grenada can begin. God has given us Channel 4 in Grenada! With God's providence we hope to also stream this tv channel on the Grenada Family Network website. With your support in prayer and finances they could be on the air soon.

We have put in a lot of time to prepare some short videos of our trip to Grenada on our Vimeo channel. Join us on the journey to Grenada by plane and bus, see some of the project over there and even discover some of the new fruits we tried. Listen to Soné, Darian and Gillian, as they share some of their experiences on the way back to Bolivia.

<https://vimeo.com/channels/solomonfamilymissions/103696959>

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New Studio Equipment for Bolivia.



We are now back in Bolivia where through the kindness and self denial of a donor in the US, God has provided some funds to build a few basic sets and some studio equipment that we can use to actually start producing some new programs again. We haven't been able to do any studio production since we moved

from the city to our location outside the city due to the lack of funds to construct simple sets, install basic lighting and audio equipment and replace our ageing camera's. At the same time God has sent some lovely volunteers from the US, Chile, Argentina and Venezuela to help with set construction and studio set up. Having people to help is just as great a miracle as the funding! God is so good that He provided the funding and the people at the same time. You can see some photo's of the sets and studio equipment being built and installed on our Vimeo channel:

<https://vimeo.com/channels/solomonfamilymissions/105178350>

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Final Thoughts.



As we travelled to Grenada we stopped over for short times at some of the other GMI projects in Bolivia and Guyana.

Everywhere we went, the projects were in great need of help.

Whether it was the school in the north of Bolivia where we slept 1 night or the projects in Guyana or the project in Grenada, they all

are desperately short on help. Our hands feel so short. We wished we could stay 6 months to a year at each place and help. Dear friends, please consider choosing a project and supporting them in prayer for funds and volunteers. There is great power in fervent prayer. We have seen time and again how God has provided in answer to prayer. You can find out more about each project on the GMI website:

<http://gospelministry.org/all-projects/>

Alternatively you could send us an email and we could share some detail with you about the greatest needs that the Lord brings across our way.

It is only by the self denial and sacrifice and prayers of some of you that we have had the wonderful privilege to serve the Lord full time the past few years. God has been so good to us. Thank you so much to all who have supported us and the projects we work with. Without your support, it would not have been possible for us to volunteer for 4 years without stipend. Knowing that there is so much need makes it really hard to take a break, but God has shown us in His word and confirmed through various other ways that we need to take a short break from the mission field to recharge spiritually, physically, mentally and financially. All our resources are exhausted and God has started opening the way for us to return to South Africa for a few months at the end of October. How the Lord will provide for this trip, we don't know, but God is in control and we leave it in His hands. We will need to find some employment to help pay off our current debt and the debt we will incur to make the trip home. We plan on returning in as short a time as possible, as the Lord directs. Please contact us if you have any ideas for some kind of short term employment.

We hope this newsletter had been a blessing to you. Please have a look at the online resources listed below that go with this newsletter and much more,

Derek, Soné, Darian and Gillian.

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Summary of Online Resources:

Our New Vimeo Channel - <https://vimeo.com/channels/solomonfamilymissions>



We have started this video on demand channel on Vimeo so that you can experience some of life on the mission field with us. We pray that it will bring honor and glory to God. We hope to update it as regularly as possible. Right now you can watch some of the

volunteers and their children in action at home and doing outreach during 2012. You can see a few of the TV Programs that Darian and Gillian helped to make in 2013. Watch them sing and play in the bell choir and make some tasty treats. Then join us as we travel to Grenada and help out there for a few weeks. See some of the new fruits we enjoyed there and listen to Soné, Darian and Gillian as they share some of their experiences on the way back to Bolivia. Watch as the studio takes shape. We pray that the hard work that we put into this channel will be a blessing to you all.

New TV Channels available online:

Light Channel Netherlands - <http://lightchanneltv.nl/>



This is a channel for the those who speak Dutch, but many of the programs are in English with Dutch subtitles. Those of you who speak Afrikaans might enjoy this channel too!

Television de la Famille - <http://tvfamille.org/#tv-direct>



This is a channel in French broadcast on cable TV in Martinique and Guadeloupe and viewed via streaming in France and other French speaking countries.

Red ADvenir Internacional - <http://redadvenir.org/>



This is the Spanish channel which is based here in Bolivia. Currently being broadcast here in Santa Cruz and streamed to anywhere in the world on their website.

List of All Gospel Ministry International affiliated TV Networks:

All Media Networks Page - <http://gospelministry.org/media-networks-2/>



Have a look at this page for a channel in your language! This page is updated as new networks are added so keep checking it for new additions.

Online radio site(English):

Grenada Family Network - <http://www.grenadafamilynetwork.org.site/radio/>



By God's grace, this radio station has been broadcasting in English on the island of Grenada for 5 years. Many people in other countries who listen via online streaming on the website have also been blessed.

iPhone and Android Apps:



Watch all the GMI channels on your iPhone! Just search for GMI in the Apple Store. Android App is coming soon. For now, Android devices can watch most of the GMI channels by opening the channels website in a browser. Some channels have special Android buttons. Look out for these and use them.

Video on Demand sites:

Adventmedia - <http://adventmedia.nl/>



Lots of videos available on health, prophecy, creation and much more. Videos are in English with Dutch subtitles or in Dutch.

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Donations Details

Solomon Family Savings Account:
Standard Bank South Africa
Account Number: 403518725
Universal Branch Code: 051001
Swift Code: SBZAZJ
IBAN: SBZAZJ403518725 051001

Solomon Family Paypal Account:
solomon@bkmal.co.za

GMI Online Donations Page:
<http://gospelministry.org/donations/>
Just specify: "Solomon Family in Bolivia"