

# The Power of Prayer

JULY 2013

NEWSLETTER

SANTA CRUZ, BOLIVIA



*Radiating the promise of God's soon return from the new media center.*



## Gospel Ministries International (GMI)

Dear Church Family,

It has been some time since I wrote my last newsletter. I want to apologize for the long silence. However God has been working in a mighty way in our lives and also for the ministry. We have had many difficult battles, but along with the battles, we have seen God's hand working mightily. I would like to share with you some of these experiences.

### **Our greatest blessing**

Our baby is now 4 months old and is growing beautifully. Julie is now at the stage I like the best. She is now interacting, smiling and wants to grab things. When my wife looks back at the difficulties she had and what she went through to avoid losing the baby, she said it was worth all the troubles. This reminded me of a statement Ellen White made in the book Maranatha, ch. 347 "Their former trials and suffering in this world will be forgotten and lost amid the glories of the New Earth. {Mar 355.5}" Because I know what my wife went through, it has brought meaning to

this statement. Although Julie was born prematurely, praise the Lord she is in good health.



Our two older kids, Cindy and Wendell, are doing well and are being home schooled. It is quite a job, but it is worth it. One Sabbath evening, we sat talking and Wendell said to us he would like to be missionary pilot. Cindy jumped right in and said, "Well, I want to be a missionary nurse to fly with Wendell." We pray that God would keep impressing their little hearts to work for Him.

### The power of prayer

Sometimes crises can bring blessings. A few months ago the winds were so strong in Santa Cruz City that they ripped off two of the guide cables holding in place the 200ft. tower. The owners of the property immediately contacted us and we were asked to remove the antenna so that they could dismantle the tower before it fell and hurt someone on the street. Now we were off the air.

Because we were not broadcasting for some months in Santa Cruz, the government contacted us and informed us that they were coming to do an inspection to find out why we were off the air for so long. They could take our license away if it is not being used. Praise the Lord the 262ft. tower at our new location was completed. We were so pressed for time that we sent out a prayer request to all the other sister networks to pray that we would finish installing the antennas on time.

The next day, they called me again to ask for directions. My heart was pounding because they were on their way and we were not ready for them. Praise the Lord for the power of prayer. Just before the engineer hung up the phone, he asked me, "Are you ready for an inspection today?" I was stunned, I explained to the engineer the emergency we had in downtown Santa Cruz with the high winds. I told him a new tower and antenna had to be erected on our new property and we were just one day from finishing the project. He said to me, "I will give you two days." I stood with the phone in my hand and could not believe what I heard. It was a direct answer to prayer.

I called the team together explaining what had just happened and we praised the Lord. We worked night and day until the signal was back on the air. We were actually broadcasting for the first time from the new media center: this last June 2013.



*Erecting the new tower*



*Installation of antennas prior to government inspection.*



*Engineers working late into the night to finish the installation of antennas getting ready for inspection in two days.*

## GMI broadcasters from around the world met at the NAB show

### Growth in spite of difficulties

Although Gospel Ministries International has been going through financial difficulties, we are seeing expansion beyond our imagination. Humanly speaking, we cannot explain how it is all coming together. We are only moving forward in faith and God is in the lead every day. Today we have 25 networks around the world in over 20 languages. Some have been on the air for a few years and some are new and building momentum.

I had the special privilege, last April, of meeting the majority of these GMI broadcasters at the NAB (National Association for Broadcasters) show in Las Vegas. At this exhibition, we were all able to meet and pray together, we developed a strategic plan for the future and looked for ways to work together. We developed standards as to what kind of programming our networks will carry. The NAB show is where all the leading broadcasters from around the world meet to see what is new on the market. Even the small networks like ours came to see what equipment would fit their budget. We saw equipment that just blew our minds and pockets away.

However, we spoke with many of the sales representatives as if we had the money on hand. We know by faith, if God has brought us this far, He will give us all the tools necessary to accomplish the work He has given us to do. God is the Owner of the sun, moon and stars and we know He will supply the long list of equipment our media centers need. Not only equipment is needed, but also infrastructure. If I were to put numbers on this newsletter as to how much it will cost to put 25 networks on the air fully functioning, it would blow your mind. Only God can work a miracle to acquire the equipment and infrastructure we are in need of. We claim the promises of God. Ellen White says we must make big demands on God. He is pleased when we have this kind of trust in Him. If you want to know the numbers out of curiosity, you can write to me personally, I will be happy to share the information with you.

## National Association for Broadcasters

(NAB Las Vegas)



GMI Broadcasters from 20 different countries

*While at the NAB show, we met every morning for worship before leaving for the convention. We shared our testimonies of what God is doing for us in our country. I heard the testimony of Ramon from Indonesia and it touched me.*

*Ramon was an atheist and a millionaire. When he heard the gospel, he gave up everything to be a follower of Jesus Christ. The last thing Ramon kept for himself was his multimillion dollar home. Then he saw an opportunity to share the gospel around the world using mass media. Ramon and his wife decided to sell their home and start a television network (HCBN Indonesia).*



*Ramon is just one of the many broadcasters with great testimonies of the power of God. Please keep him and his team in prayer as they continue to share God's word to millions.*

### Combined forces

For the ten years we have been broadcasting from Bolivia, we have had many struggles with church administration. I have never shared this information in the previous newsletters, but praise the Lord, for the past two years God has been opening doors for us to work in unity with the church. The Psalmist David said in Psalms 133:1 *Behold, how good and how pleasant [it is] for brethren to dwell together in unity!* A year and a half ago, Pr. David Gates and myself had the privilege of meeting with the Bolivian Union President (Pr. Stanley Arco), the local Mission President for Santa Cruz (Pr. Antonio Brito) and the director of the church run Nuevo Tiempo TV network (Pr. David Riarte). In this meeting, all our differences were put away. The Union President, Pr. Stanley Arco, said to us that we are living at the end of time and from now on we will work together to finish the work of the Gospel. This was music to our ears. Praise God for godly men in leadership.

Last year 2012 I received a call from the mission president of Cochabamba to have a special meeting. Pr. Antonio Brito (the mission president of this region) and I sat down and we discussed ways and means we can do evangelistic outreach together. My heart was thrilled because this was going to be the first time we would be working together.

### First venture

In Bolivia, GMI has many projects in areas such as broadcasting, aviation, medical and education. Our first venture working together with the church was to have our aviation department fly the Union officials and Pr. Robert Costa to various evangelistic sites and do baptisms around Bolivia. Many of the towns and cities were all doing evangelism series at the same time. Pr. Robert Costa and the officials had to visit each one of them within one week. Their schedule was very tight and the only way to make that possible was for them to have a private plane to take them around to the various locations. Using commercial flights would have made it impossible to meet their deadlines. It was an experience we will never forget and it only brought us closer together as brethren.

### Second venture

The second venture was for the broadcasting department (Red Advenir) to carry live on television an evangelistic series the South American division was having in the city of Cochabamba, Bolivia with Pr. Concalves. The meeting ran for one week and many souls came to know Jesus Christ because of this joint venture. I drove from Santa Cruz to Cochabamba with my family and a friend who helped me drive. Three quarters of the way, high up in the cold mountains almost into the clouds (at least it seemed like that to me), I realized that this was something I never wanted to do again. My eyes felt like they were bulging out and my ears were blocked. I guess the altitude affected me the most because I had a cold. As we got down from the mountains into the city of Cochabamba all the pain went away.



*Pr. Robert Costa and the Bolivian Union officials preparing for flight to various towns and cities.*

*Evangelistic series held by Pr. Concalves in Cochabamba.*



*Transmitting live to the city of Cochabamba from the mountains.*



*Main roads in Cochabamba being blocked. These road blocks can be very dangerous if you find yourself in the wrong group.*

When one travels in Bolivia, it is always good to check the news to see if there are any road blocks or riots in that town. Unfortunately, I did not check the news and found myself in the middle of trouble. All the main roads in Cochabamba were blocked that very week and in spite of the roadblocks, people came out to the evangelistic meetings every night. I thought I was in Baghdad. There were police officers at every corner, some with shields guiding traffic through alternative routes. One evening it was so bad, we had to use the GPS on our phones to get out on the back roads. When I got to one of the roads, which I thought was a road; we realized it was a railroad track, which led close to the house we stayed at. I engaged the 4-wheel drive, got down into a dry riverbed and up on

top of the railroad. It was a slow bumpy ride home on the railroad. Praise the Lord we got back safely. That night, as soon as the roadblocks were lifted at midnight, we packed our bags and left for Santa Cruz. We drove all night until the morning; we did not stop, not even for the bathroom. Praise the Lord, in the morning, we were able to pass by a little town one hour before it was blocked again.

The next evangelistic series is scheduled for September in La Paz which is even higher, at an altitude of 15,000ft. This will be another live broadcasting with the Union and we ask for your prayers that God will make this possible and work out all the details that souls will be won for Him. I hope not to be the one driving through those mountains and situations again.

### Life Threatening work

Working in a third world country is very challenging and we ask for prayers. Satan is always behind the scenes working in ways to discourage God's workers. Some times it is very dangerous. Please pray for the missionaries who put themselves at risk. There are missionaries who fly into dangerous territories and drug trafficking areas to do God's work. Till today we have not found or heard anything from the missing pilot and his wife in Venezuela. A few months ago we lost our caretaker for the hanger in Guayara Bolivia. He left flying and never came home. We do not know if he is alive or dead. His wife is now our cook at the media center. Please keep this family in your prayers as they are going through a very difficult time.

Sorry if the letter was a bit too long. I do not like writing long letters but there is so much to say, but little time to write. Katie and I want to thank you for your ongoing support. We are truly blessed to have a church family like you and we miss you all very much. Thank you for making it possible for us to be here working as missionaries. We hope some day we can visit and share more of our testimonies with you.

Yours in Christ,

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*Beautiful people like these are  
waiting for you and I to step out in  
faith and reach them where they are.*