

## ***Thoughts we've been chewing on...***

**March 8, 2010**

Dear Friends,

Blessings to you in Christ Jesus!

Meg loved this photo of a vicuña watching us eat our meal at a local restaurant and thought, "Well, we too have been chewing on a lot of things recently." Hence the byline.

So what have we been chewing on?

First of all, gratitude for the many opportunities that are given us to serve here in Bolivia: from the formal invitations to the spontaneous needs that are around all of us.

There have been non-stop opportunities to provide pastoral ministry to individuals:

- **praying with the children of an orphanage** for both their present physical ailments as well as the inner healing that each needs from the abusive beginnings that led to them being in the orphanage;
- **hospital visits** at the requests of family members of friends, including the wonderful restoration of infant twins who were born prematurely and had pneumonia and heart murmurs;
- **reaching out to the many poor** in the streets of Cochabamba: providing food as we walk along. The most poverty we have ever seen was a very old lady, as disheveled as you can imagine, all alone, scooping water out of a mud puddle. We stopped the car and, carefully approaching so as not to scare her, Meg gave her the food and drink we had in the car. Her smile when she saw the food coming toward her was unforgettable.

This next weekend, Bob will go to Santa Cruz on two invitations: one to give some teaching to an emerging prayer ministry group at the **Anglican Church of Cristo Pan de Vida** and the other to launch an interest in the healing ministry with a **healing/evangelistic service** at the **Anglican church of San Tomás Apóstol**.

Recently, we've been invited to meet with a **home group** some distance out of town. They expressed an interest to learn about the healing ministry. It's wonderful to see their hunger to learn how to receive healing and pray for others.

During a lull in ministry November and December of 2009, **Bob took the opportunity to finish a book** he started writing at least four years ago. Currently, the nine chapters are being translated into Spanish and we have a contact with a publishing company. The primary audience will be the Spanish-speaking Christian world as there are not as many resources here. The title will be: "Restoring your Life to Health/Wholeness — the Healing Ministry of the Church".

Then, too, we have been concerned for Bolivia. Recently they have had all foreigners (here for 2 years) register to vote in the upcoming elections. If we don't vote we will not be able to carry out bank transactions. Elections will be on **Easter Sunday** and no public gatherings are allowed for 24 hours. So all of our Easter services will be on Saturday.



So, what else have we been “chewing on”? For the past two months our “chewing”: thinking, talking, praying, dreaming, calculating and decision-making has resulted in our plan to return to our homeland. More specifically we will be moving to Oregon where we lived some 22 years ago. We are very excited to be close to Meg’s family and finding new work/ministry. Everything beyond that is in God’s hands. Our “boys” are in favor of this move and have promised to come visit us. And of course we plan to return to Southern California as often as possible to see them. Then, too, Bob has to be near the ocean and surf the waves or else he’ll need psychiatric care. The beach is much cheaper therapy. Some of you understand.

Another factor related to this is the sense of fulfillment of our goals, by the grace of God. Almost every Anglican congregation in Bolivia has received teaching, training, and equipping for the ministry of healing. Here in Cochabamba we have six very committed prayer ministers prepared to carry on this ministry. Missionaries are told that our purpose is to “work ourselves out of a job”. Our joy has been to watch these leaders grow in confidence as well as develop the capability to pray effectively for healing. In each of the above-mentioned ministry opportunities, we have taken others who have been trained.

How can we ever say or express the gratitude we have for all of you, friends and family who have supported us with your prayers, love, cards, emails, etc. We’ll be happy to be closer to “home”. O yeah, when are we returning? God permitting, we’ll be flying to the States the end of April. We’ll stay a few weeks in the Southern California area before heading to Oregon.

Please keep us in prayer for this transition and the challenges ahead. Meg is seeking a job using her educational and administrative skills, and bilingual ability. As in most places, the job market is very tight. Until the end of the year we have arranged with SAMS, our missions organization, to keep us on the books as associate missionaries. In this manner those who wish to continue making contributions may do so. As associates we will be able to draw on those funds for future short-term ministry, including, we hope, the large event in 2011 here in Bolivia.

Our love and prayers,

Bob and Meg