

Tim and Ceci Ramsey May 2015 Ministry Update

Ceci and I just spent a busy three months. We were in Bolivia in February to lead an electrical team at Monte Blanco. In March we had team meetings at LATCOM and I visited churches in Indiana and New Jersey on weekends. On March 25th we returned to Bolivia to help with three more teams. We arrived home on April 26th at 2:00 a.m.

Needless to say, we are tired; but joyfully so. A lot has happened in these three months, so bear with me as I share some details.



For some time it had become obvious that LATCOM's Bolivia field was in need of rejuvenation. They had operated 2 and ½ years without an executive director, the national board was only marginally meeting, important decisions were being made primarily by accounting staff, and vision had stagnated. After a great deal of prayer, I asked the U.S. and the Bolivian board of directors for permission to reset the vision for Monte Blanco and the EPLABOL mission in Bolivia. This culminated in their request that I become president of the Bolivian board, temporarily, along with continuing to act as the executive director of LATCOM in the U.S.A.

This has greatly increased my workload, but it has also enabled me to quickly make some crucial decisions which are already energizing the mission. Most significant of these was naming, with unanimous board approval, a new executive director for Bolivia. On April 8th, **Pablo Morales** assumed the leadership of our mission in Santa Cruz, Bolivia. He is a visionary who helped us set up Monte Blanco in its first two years of operation. He understands who we are, where we are headed, and what we need to do to get there. Pablo is an architect by profession and owns his own construction company. He is married to Paola, a gynecologist, and they have three wonderful kids. We are excited to have Pablo and Paola on our team as we plan for future ministries and work to renovate current ones.

I will be traveling back and forth to Bolivia a great deal more than usual as I help to reset vision, sell some unused properties to help capitalize construction projects at Monte Blanco, energize the Bolivian board of directors, facilitate staff training, and work with nationals on a five-year plan of operation.



Monte Blanco continues to be a large part of LATCOM's overall ministry. To improve camp, we are seeking to upgrade programming options, staff, and infrastructure. The latter includes building a swimming pool, constructing a roof over the basketball courts, fixing the water system to make water throughout camp safe for drinking, maximizing use of the farm, and upgrading the playing fields.

We are grateful for **Steppin' Out Ministries** and its electrical team which worked 3 weeks at Monte Blanco in February. In March we hosted a **Taylor University** team who aided staff tremendously by helping in accommodations, maintenance, and programming. They were a delightful group of students with which to work and quite popular with the Bolivian workers! We are also thankful for the team from **Franklin, PA (and CA)** who worked in painting, carpentry, gardening, organizing the wood shop, and other areas. Their work made a huge difference in the appearance of Monte Blanco and served as an encouragement to staff. In between these two teams, we had a group of prospective investors from GA who are interested in partnering with Monte Blanco and the nearby orphanage in Comarapa.



Two teams will be going to Bolivia in July: one to the Lomerío area for planning and training and one to assist with a sports team who will be working at Monte Blanco for the first time.

Family Update

It was wonderful having our oldest daughter, Julie, and husband, Brian, leading one of the work teams to Bolivia in April. Also included were three of the grandkids....Braden (12), Emilie (almost 13), and Timothy (11 months). It was fun to see the grandkids catch the vision of ministry and falling in love with Bolivia and its people.



Ceci and I are grateful for the steroid shots Dr. Keith Miller injected in our knees. Keith and his wife, Elaine, were the leaders of the Taylor University team. The shots have made it easier to move around and to absorb some of the shocks of traveling so much.

Needs

1. A pressing need right now is for a good, reliable car. Neither our Honda, with 300,000 miles, nor the Subaru passed state inspection. We scrapped the Honda and towed the Subaru to a mechanic's shop the day after we returned from Bolivia.
2. Continued monthly support.
3. Wisdom as Tim reorganizes the Bolivian side of LATCOM.
4. LATCOM needs an additional \$2000/month to pay the executive director in Bolivia.

Prayer

1. God's Word to continue to be preached in Bolivia as the government continues to impose restrictions on Christian ministries.
2. Opportunities to share LATCOM's ministries with churches and individuals.
3. For new, dedicated board members both stateside and in Bolivia.
4. For wisdom and patience for Pablo Morales as he assumes leadership of the work in Bolivia.

Praise

1. For faithful support from people like you!
2. For the work teams at Monte Blanco. They have been such a blessing.
3. For the Gonzales family who watched our house/dog while we were out of the country.
4. For health and safety as we traveled.
5. For Bolivian nationals desiring to spread the Gospel in their own country.

6. For a third generation to carry the LATCOM torch.

THANK YOU! You are helping hearts, hands, and feet to serve God in Latin America!

A handwritten signature in black ink, reading "Timothy A. Ramsey". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first name "Timothy" and last name "Ramsey" clearly legible.

Tim and Ceci Ramsey

