



### El Chairo Boliviano— The Bolivian Stew

December 22, 2009

*Aski urupan* or good day in Aymara to you.

December has flown by. In only one month, we've been to a womens' conference in Tilata, a youth district gathering in Centro Batallas, celebrated a wedding in Sorata, led the last four-day missionary conference, went to a Thanksgiving Sunday and youth worship service, attended a Christmas Festival by the Lutheran Institute and celebrated Christmas with the office at their annual party. We're also super excited because we finally were given our foreigner cards! This month, we've had a chance to really spend time with people. It's been these opportunities that've reminded us of what about. Our friend sang that he heard up. Basically, the mas is sadness and friend told us that sent was a mango. can't afford to give may seem as if Christmas though cost us the most those that are the may take the shape you or a hug from a be just a visit from a friend. On Christmas a gift, one of the most the birth of our Lord, with your families and you do so with spirit, remembering and valuing your time together and the reason why we celebrate Christmas. From our family to yours we wish you joy and peace this Christmas season. Love always, Kari



**The Christmas tree and manager scene in the central office.**

Christmas is really told us recently of a song while growing song says that Christmas calamity. Another one Christmas her pre-For those of us who big gifts sometimes it Christmas is lost. isn't in the gifts that money, but rather in most heartfelt. That of a card a child made neighbor. It may even family member or mas, we are all given special ever to be given, Jesus Christ. As you visit friends this month, may



## Spotlight on... Womens' Art Exposition



This hermana "sister" is being presented as the 1st place winner for her district by Bertha Uturnco, the Vice President of the IELB for the beautiful manta (shawl) she made.

In Tilata at the womens' conference, the women shared their best new stitches. There was a competition for 1st, 2nd, and 3rd place from every district. Winners received a panetón (bread cake), decorative bowl, and cup.



Sweaters, mantas, vests, and other decorative items made in Caranavi.



Mantas, hats, sweaters, a purse, a chalina (scarf), and other decorative household items made in Sorata.



Susana Gutierrez, the National Womens' Coordinator presented hermana Juana with 2nd place for her table centerpiece.

**Did you know???** That the Bible in Aymara has only existed for about 23 years. In older versions of the Bible in Aymara you will find that the words are spelled using the Spanish alphabet. However, the newer versions use the Aymara alphabet.



And he took the children in his arms, put his hands on them, and blessed them.  
*Mark 10:16*



Justin celebrating Holy Communion at the youth gathering in Centro Batallas



Steps in Sorata leading up to the church



The glass steeple in Tilata



Mariachis performing after the wedding in Sorata



To end their conference youth from each district presented themselves and sang their favorite hymns



Me in a manta one of the hermanas made which won first place (the sisters wanted me to take my picture in it!)



Inside the church in Tilata, beautiful hydrangeas were growing (and even a peach tree!)



Justin celebrating his first wedding as a pastor

Brigida and Guillermo, the bride and groom, exchanged money, vows, rings, and were joined together by a gold chain that encircled them both



On the way to their reception we walked past this beautiful tree that grew over the wall I'm standing beside



Two hermanas walking as well to the reception



The main plaza in Sorata— the palm trees were the biggest I've seen



When you forget your hat you use whatever you have to cover your face— the sun is really strong



The National Missionaries practicing baptism on a doll they named Ruth Lisbet



**Pastor Francisco Choque** is the Secretary of Mission in the IELB (and our main supervisor!)



• ***Where are you from originally?***

I am from a town called San Antonio de Millipaya in the district of Sorata. Milli means potato harvest and paya means twice. For this reason, twice a year in Sorata there is a potato harvest. Sorata is known for its gold and silver mines, mountainous terrain, palm trees, and the many fruits it produces.

• ***What is your favorite Christmas tradition?***

Every year at Christmas my immediate and extended family eat together. We prepare many different types of food, but we always have turkey, a variety of potatoes like chuño and oca, and bananas for dessert. Each year we eat in a different family member's house. In my church, we have a small worship service and afterwards we have chocolate, panetones (bread cake), candy canes, sweets and pass out gifts to the children.

• ***Of all the many Christmases past, has there been a very memorable one for you?***

Two! The first Christmas I want to mention took place back in 1979 when I was a seminary student in Mexico. My three friends and I didn't have a lot of money that Christmas and so we decided to go from plaza to plaza playing instruments in order to earn some money. We played the guitar, zampónas (played similarly to a harmonica but made of hollow sticks of different sizes), charango (small guitar like instrument), bombo (type of drum), and quena (flute like instrument). We had a great time and people really liked our music. A pastor even asked us to come a play in his church. That night we made 1,700 Mexican pesos!

The second Christmas I want to share was when I went with my family to Achocalla. There we had fiambre (fiambre consists of a type of meat, potatoes, fried cheese, bananas, etc.) and we played basketball and soccer. My daughter and I decided to go horseback riding. After a few minutes of trotting with my horse, I decided that it would be a smoother ride to go faster. I pushed the horse to run and was fine at first but then shortly after the horse began running, I found myself not on the horse, but on the ground. I wasn't hurt, but everyone was laughing!

• ***If you could give one thing to every person in the world for Christmas what would it be?***

I think I would share with them this Christmas reflection that based in today's times.

Jesus was a rejected stone that did not move. Even though he was rejected, he became a living stone in our lives. In Latin America, in Bolivia, we have many rejected stones as well. There is discrimination, marginalization, lack of jobs, etc. People are discriminated against for not being able to speak Spanish well, for the color of their skin, or for their lack of education among other things. However, as Christians, we are not rejected stones, but chosen ones. God has chosen us and through God we are made living stones. In my experience, it's the poor who suffer most. For 80 years, Bolivia has had a neo-liberal government that could not see its people. When Evo Morales, a campesino (man from the countryside), came into power we indigenous people came into focus. With Morales, the government is beginning to change so that the poor rise up and the rich go down in order to meet each other. If I could give anything to everyone for Christmas, it would be this message of hope.



# An Interview with Nélide Maman



## • *Where are you from originally?*

I'm from the community of Chawaya in the province of Camacho which is in the District of Mocomoco. To get to Mocomoco, you have to pass some 38 mountainous curves from the high plains. My community is past these curves. When I think of my community, I hope. I hope that one day we will have a university, not just a high school. I hope that there will be an irrigation system like in Sorata so that my community can produce fruit and vegetables more than one time a year. I hope that there will be more roads to more communities in my province, like the one my community recently built. This way, the fruit and vegetables that are produced can make their way into the cities to earn the people more money. My province can produce many types of fruits and vegetables like pacayas (not papayas...it's a different fruit!), plums, peaches, prickly pears, green apples, corn, barley, potatoes, strawberries, and quinoa because we are neither in the valley nor the altiplano. However, to get to some of the communities in my province, you have to walk for four hours because there are no roads. With roads, it would be easier for people to get to the doctor faster than walking for an hour. In the past our land was taken from us by force and we were forced to work for the same people who took our land from us. Only recently within the last couple of years did we stop working for these people because of community justice that is written into our new constitution. Now, we have our own small parcels of land, but they don't produce enough for a large family, so many families have left. We were told that we could buy back the rest of our land, but at prices that are too expensive. Many of us fought for our land back, but were either killed or put in jail. When we ask them (the people who took our land) where their documentation is that shows that they bought our land, they can't find anything or they make up a document. So, when I think of my community, I hope for a community where young people can raise a family earning a wage from their own just parcel of land with better access to medical care and education.

## • *Does your community celebrate Christmas?*

Yes! My church, the congregation of Mocomoco, was the very first Lutheran church in Bolivia. It recently celebrated its 70th anniversary. When Christmas falls on a Saturday or Sunday, we have a worship service and afterwards if there are funds, we eat fiambre together. If it is at night, we drink hot chocolate and eat bread. We then pass out presents of food like popcorn (except this is BIG popcorn!).

## • *Of all the many Christmases past, has there been a very memorable one for you?*

I remember the Christmas when my friends and I got together at night and we had fiambre (where everyone brings something to eat). We talked, laughed, and danced. I liked it a lot because it was a special time when we could spend time together in a healthy way without our parents being there to supervise us. Special times like these are ones that are few and far between and we should enjoy them when they happen.

I also remember making nuñu wichu with my mom. Nuñu wichu is like fried milk. I asked her once why we made it and only why we made it at Christmas. She told me that nuñu means breast and wichu milk and that making fried milk on Christmas reminds us of the baby Jesus who was breastfed. While we eat our nuñu wichu, we drink hot chocolate. My mom also said that on Christmas the water is born. This is because on Christmas day, water begins to spring up from the earth near rocks where there was no water before and filling again the rivers. Christmas day ends our drought. Without water there is no life just as Jesus gives us life.

## • *If you could give one thing to every person in the world for Christmas what would it be?*

I would give everyone the gift of the Good News, because it gives us hope for our lives. It's also invaluable. I would like to give everyone many things, but I don't have the money to do that. Giving everyone the Good News is something that I could do.

**Justin and I would like to say a special thank you to all of you for your support financially and spiritually this year. We really enjoy receiving your updates and keeping in touch. May you be blessed by the time that you have to spend with friends and family this holiday season. As our gift to you, please visit the “Our Videos” section of my website. We’ve posted a special message from us to you called “Canciones Navideñas-Bolivia.” In the blue box below you will find something that may help you understand the message a little better. On the left is Aymara and on the right is English.**

*¡Feliz Navidad!*



**Jesusajj Belén Marcanwa Naci**

Warawaran c' ajatapaw amtayitu  
Tatitojjan acapachar jutatapa.  
Warawaraw khantanisa yatiyāna  
Khespiyirin acapachan naitapa

Coro: Belén marcanwa naciwayi  
Khespiyiri Jesusajja, mā uyuna  
Uca Jesusaw khespiyitu,  
Juchajj laycu t' akhesisa jiwawayi

Suma virgen Mariatwa naciwayi  
Dios awquina qhitanita wawapajja  
Jucharar munasawa sarakani

**In Bethlehem Christ Was Born**

To see the stars shine I remember,  
That Jesus Christ the son of God came to be born.  
And his light makes me think in the love,  
Of the good Jesus that on the cross died for me.

Chorus: In Bethlehem my good Jesus was born,  
He came to the world to save the sinner.  
He for me left his glory there,  
For me he died on a cross, my Savior.

From the Virgin Jesus Christ was born in Bethlehem,  
The only Son of God, the Savior.  
His coming demonstrated to us the great love,  
And the grace of God the Father towards the sinner.

# A Wish from the IELB to you!



En todo el mundo se escuchan villancicos con guitarras, arpas, campanas y desde los Andes, el sonido de los charangos y zampoñas anunciando la llegada de la Navidad y el nacimiento de Jesús el Cristo, nuestro Salvador.

Aromas, colores, costumbres, tradiciones... todo se mezcla y da gusto compartirlo con familiares y amigos, llenos de emociones que invaden nuestros corazones. Alegrías en medio de una noche mágica llena de abrazos interminables, besos, saludos, risas, una mesa donde los sentimientos y la esperanza cristiana son el plato principal. Noche Buena, símbolo de paz y amor para compartir, perdonar, confirmar lazos afectivos y llenarnos de esperanzas de un mundo mejor.

Dios derrame en cada uno de ustedes muchas bendiciones,  
FELIZ NAVIDAD Y UN VENTUROSO AÑO NUEVO.



Son los sinceros deseos de la  
IGLESIA EVANGÉLICA LUTERANA BOLIVIANA



**All the world listens to Christmas carols with guitars, harps, bells and from the Andes, the sound of charangos and zampoñas announce the arrival of Christmas and the birth of Jesus Crist, our Savior.**

**Aromas, colors, customs, traditions... everything mixes together and it gives us pleasure to share it with relatives and friends, full of emotions that invade our hearts. Joy in the middle of a magical night full of unending hugs, kisses, greetings, laughter; a table where feelings and Christian hope are the main dish. Christmas Eve, a symbol of peace and love to share, forgive, confirm relationships, and fill us with hope of a better world.**

**May God bless each and every one of you with many blessings,  
Merry Christmas and a fortunate New Year.**

**With sincere wishes from the IELB.**

Also, please be sure to  
check out Justin's devotional blog: [thepilgrimpastor.blogspot.com](http://thepilgrimpastor.blogspot.com)  
& his food blog: [thepilgrimpastor.wordpress.com](http://thepilgrimpastor.wordpress.com)

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