



# El Chairo Boliviano The Bolivian Stew



June 28, 2010

## What We've Been Up To

- Taught** English and Intro to the New Testament, ISEAT, June 1-31
- Facilitated** a workshop on working definitions of Bolivian Lutheranism, ISEAT, June 9
- Began** language classes, June 9
- Attended** the Academic Council Meeting, ISEAT, June 10
- Helped** Pastor Cristóbal with the "Taking of a Name Ceremony," San José, June 11
- Preached** at La Paz Community Church, June 12
- Celebrated** our 6th anniversary, June 12
- Began** an English after-school club, The Lutheran Institute, June 16, 23
- Taught Sunday School** at an interdenominational worship gathering, Combaya, June 18, 19
- Held** a meeting to organize Sunday school curriculum material, June 21
- Preached** in the office worship service, June 21
- Started** a module on Bolivian Lutheranism that will be used as a text book for ISEAT and IELB classes, June 25
- Facilitated** workshops on empowerment and sustainability for women, Calasaya, June 26
- Preached** on Pastors' Day, Villa Dolores, June 27

## My name is ... and I have power!

This past Saturday, I had the honor of working with a group of women leaders in the IELB in Calasaya, Bolivia. The title above is how we introduced ourselves to each other as we began a workshop on women's empowerment and sustainability. One of the first activities was what is called in the educational world, a think-per-share. Each woman was asked to jot down a list of how she has power in her family, church and community. After about 10 minutes passed, the women broke off into groups of two and shared their answers with each other and then changed partners one more time before sharing with the whole group. Some of the women at first were under the impression that they did not have a lot of power, but after completing this activity, they grew in their confidence and understanding of how important a role they are in the life of the Church. Be-

low is some what they shared:

### In my family, I have power because I...

- Cook
- Make my own decisions
- Care for my children and animals
- Assume all responsibility when my husband's away
- Take care of the house
- Earn money for my family
- Do everything

### In my church, I have power because I...

- Pray

- Lead worship services
- Teach Sunday School
- Am the District President
- Am the Womens' Coordinator
- Sell things to help raise funds for my congregation
- Visit with the sick
- Take care of the church
- Fast
- Decorate the church

### In my community, I have power because I...

- Am a mayor
- Am a seller
- Counsel others
- Am a role model of Christian values for others



## Powerful and Sustaining Women of the Bible

Following the think-per-share activity, we worked in groups to read about some powerful and sustaining women, answering the questions for each woman, "What did she do?" "How did she have power?" and "How was what she did sustaining for the church?"

**Deborah and Jael**  
(Judges 4)

**Ruth and Naomi**  
(Ruth 1)

**Esther**  
(Esther 7-8:8)

**Mary Magdalene**  
(Mark 15:40-16:9)

**Lydia**  
(Acts 16)

**Joanna, Susanna, and others**  
(Luke 8:1-3)

**Dorcas**  
(Acts 9:36-42)

**Phoebe**  
(Romans 16)

## “The Taking of a Name Ceremony”



On Friday, June 11th Justin and I accompanied IELB Pastor President Cristóbal Alejo Fernandez, IELB Vice President Bertha Uturnco and four district presidents to the “Taking of a Name Ceremony” in San José, a small town just outside of Viacha. Many of you may be wondering what exactly this ceremony is about and what all it involves. The “Taking of a Name Ceremony” takes place at the beginning of a high school student’s senior year. Each class names a padrino or godfather that will financially support their graduation

and accompany them spiritually throughout the year. This person is seen as a wise counsel and an authority within the local community. This year, Pastor Cristóbal was chosen to be the godfather and we went with him to this special ceremony. During the ceremony, the students of the graduating class present themselves to the padrino and special guests and we present them with graduation pendants and offer them blessings and well wishes during their senior year and beyond. In addition to naming a godfather,

the class as a group “takes the name” of someone of importance from the Bible that means something to them. For example, the 2010 senior class of the Lutheran Institute in El Alto, took the name “Elimelech,” which means “My God is King” according to Ruth 1. Other students such as those who will graduate the next year, sing songs, recite poetry, perform dances and look with honor at the those graduating this year. It was truly an honor to be with these special students, their families, teachers and community authorities.

**Elimelech**

—  
**“My God  
 is King”**



## Quispiña “The Cookie of the Altiplano”

Quispiña is a type of cookie typically found in the altiplano región. It is made of about 75 percent quinoa as well as corn and cheese. When the “Taking of a Name Ceremony” was over, we were invited to have snack, which consisted of baked chicken, salad, oca (type of potato),

white potatoes, chuño, a boiled plantain, hominy and lots of quispiña. I have to say the flavor was quite bland, but Justin says with a bit of peanut butter or ranch dressing, he

could have eaten a lot more!



## Pastors' Day Celebration, Villa Dolores



“If you put these instructions before the brothers and sisters, you will be a good servant of Christ Jesus, nourished on the words of the faith and of the sound teaching that you have followed.”  
-1 Timothy 4:6

### “Ministry is on All of our Shoulders”

Sunday, June 27th, we attended a celebration service of the pastors in the La Paz District and Justin preached. This was a service filled with singing, praying, presents and blessings. It was a time to remember all the pastors (male and female) who serve the IELB. In Justin's message, he asked, “What is it that pastors do for and with their con-

gregations?” and then he asked “What is it that the congregations do for and with their pastor? We all recognized that we need each other to do ministry. A church that lacks the presence of women, the opinions of the youth and the laughter of children is not a complete church. We are ALL important and have our special places within the

life of the church. Through our baptisms we are all called priests and we all share the same rights and privileges through the redemption of the holy water. The fundamental equality that comes from the priesthood of all believers reminds us that our pastors and identified religious leaders do not have to go it alone.

Have you thanked your pastor this week for all the things she or he has done for you and the church?

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

**If you know of someone who would also like to receive this email and who is not currently on my email list, please send me their first and last name along with their email address to: [kfeller5@yahoo.com](mailto:kfeller5@yahoo.com) and I'll make sure that they also receive a copy! If you would not like to receive any more e-newsletters from Bolivia, please email me at: [kfeller5@yahoo.com](mailto:kfeller5@yahoo.com) with the words “STOP” in the message title.**