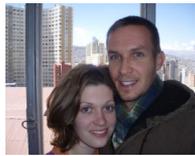


El Chairo Boliviano- The Bolivian Stew



Greetings from Bolivia! If you're a

woman, that would look like a handshake, kiss on the cheek, and another handshake. If you're a man, that would look like a handshake, pat on the shoulders, and another handshake. We each have our own way of greeting one another, but regardless of how, a welcome is always nice. Since Justin and I have been in Bolivia, we have felt nothing but welcome. Our first few days here, people came to make sure every couple of hours that we had eaten something, that we were feeling all right, and to walk with us around the neighborhood. As we began to learn our way around the city, we were invited to tea time or refrigerio. Our friend and neighbor, made sure for the first two weeks that we knew how to catch the mini-bus to work (which was very helpful as there are no signs like in Chicago which say what bus stops where). We were introduced to the different offices in the Iglesia Evangélica Luterana Boliviana (IELB) or the Lutheran church and were invited to stop by and chat. Since then, we've been to two churches, an ancestral medicine fair the church sponsored, and a youth gathering, at all of which we were surrounded by brothers and sisters in Christ greeting us with peace and health. The reception we have been given here in Bolivia, is one in which I know God has been present. As we continue to live our lives here, I pray that I too will be able to always offer up such a welcome to all that I work with.

September 30, 2009



Chairo or stew, is a national dish, which was created as a mixture of the Aymara and Spanish cultures. It contains at least 10-13 ingredients, some of which are: dehydrated potato, dried ham, sweet beef, yellow chili pepper sauce, peas, roasted wheat, carrot, sliced potato, and parsley.



Church Spotlight...



This was the very first church that Justin and I had a chance to visit. It's located in the altiplano of Bolivia, which is one of the three main areas where the majority of Lutheran churches are located. The word altiplano or meseta refers to the space in between the mountain range to the west and east. More than 11,811 feet high, it is considered the highest habitated region in the world. This church was built by hand by two families, who welcomed us with food that they themselves grew from the land and their carpa solar (small green house). The carpas solares and agua corriente (running water) are projects realized by the Lutheran Church and have greatly benefited the community. It was here that Justin and I got our first taste of oca, a small sweet type of potato (there are over 500 types of potatoes here!) and here that we learned of the strong faith of this congregation.

Top Expressions

1. **¿No ve?** Don't you see?
2. **Todo es posible en Bolivia.** Everything's possible in Bolivia.
3. **Hay que meter la nariz.** You have to put your nose out (when you're driving).
4. **Harto.** A lot!
5. **Con calma.** With ease.
6. **Poco a poco.** Little by little.



Wally-ball is a sport that is quite popular here in La Paz. We had a chance to play last week with people from the office. The people in the picture are not us, but just so you can get an idea of what it looks like to play. Basically, it's like volleyball, except that you keep playing the ball even if it hits the walls. The way we play here, you even get to hit, kick, head-butt, or knee the ball across the net. Let's just say Justin was way better at it than I was! (Although, it was really fun to play.)

What We've Been Up To Lately...

- Spoke on the national Lutheran radio station
- Ate our first Aptapi (community meal including corn, potatoes-many types, fried cheese, chicken, beef, salad, etc.)
- Went to a workshop on masculinity
- Visited a little park in Cota-Cota where we got to meet the Pastor-president's family
- Went to Lake Titicaca and saw examples of the balsas (canoe-like boats, but HUGE!!) made out of totorra or reeds
- Attended our first meeting with the district church presidents, after which, we learned how to say Qharurkama in Aymara (hasta mañana-see you tomorrow)
- Began planning a series of workshops on church doctrine for Bolivian national missionaries



APTAPI-community meal



Lutheran Radio Station



Local Green House



Lake Titicaca



Us at the Valley of the Moon



District Youth Gathering at Chicani

-Met with the womens´ group where we began an ecumenical biblical study group

- Justin presided at communion during a district youth gathering

-Went to the Valle de la Luna, an incredible place created by erosion (see picture below)

-Met with David Wunsch, our regional ELCA representative

-Worked diligently on our visa status (for all of you who have ever done this, you know it´s a process!)

-Went to Mayasa, the zoo

-Discovered many types of new foods, such as: chuño (dried potato), tunta (rehydrated chuño), lagüita de choclo (corn soup), llama (very yummy, the taste is like a mixture between pork chop and chicken), cuy (it had teeth when it was brought out to us!), and tumbo (my new favorite fruit- the outside is oval, green, and soft like an apricot while the inside looks like the inside of a pome-

On September 13th, Justin and I welcomed 17 new members to the IELB! Reaffirming their baptism, the confirmation students went through a six month long process studying after school about the



Lutheran faith, various doctrines and God. Justin was asked to preach and preside over the service and we had a really great time getting to know all of the confirmands.



Us with Vice-President Bertha Uturuncu

Also, please be sure to check out Justin´s blog at: thepilgrimpastor.blogspot.com



Trip to Mayasa- the zoo



This is a picture I took of a trashcan that says "Deposite here discrimination" and below "the women know we can." I thought it was brilliant!



Justin and Pastor Presidente Cristóbal Alejo Fernandez

