

THE DE JESUS

MISSION UPDATE RE: CHANGE OF MISSION FIELD

Dear Beloved,

Greetings in the peace of our Lord Jesus Christ!

There is always a time when the Lord allows some circumstances to take place to move us forward to another field of ministry. As having been in China for 19 years until August of this year, leaving or changing fields is not like a 'walk in the park' kind of feeling to be honest.

The ministry in Yunnan in particular has always been a joy and crown in our hearts with the fruits which the Lord by His Spirit has allowed us to see through these years. Not to mention the faithfulness of your partnership with us since the beginning of our missionary journey in May 2000.

However, in the providential plan of God there should always be a time to move on regardless of some 'adverse' so to speak of an event may have happened. As we have written to you last time about the incident which had transpired on the 23rd of June 2020 when we were served a search warrant by the National Security Bureau and eventually ordered us to leave China in August has led us to consider several options through earnest prayers, fasting, and seeking counsel from God's Word and from mentors and godly men in the ministry. God has always been ahead of us in our journey to lead us which way to tread upon in our journey with the Lord.

Even a year before what happened, the Lord has already put a special interest in our hearts about Bolivia which among others were mentioned by Pastor Paul Byars during his ABC report in Bethany Makati with Pastor Nable hosting the World Missions Conference early of last year where my wife and I were present at the said conference.

The country of Bolivia in South America, in a special way, has captivated my attention somehow as it was made mentioned among other five countries which Pastor Byars profoundly noted with emphasis to have been prayed about for some time already before to send Filipino missionaries over as no Filipino missionary yet has ever been sent to these countries. This was the starting point my wife and I, out of curiosity, began to search from Wikipedia and other sites about Bolivia.

We learned in the process that in the said country, there are 38 official national languages which made Bolivia the only State in the world to have the most number of official national languages. Furthermore, we also learned that it is the only country which is called as its official name known as the Plurinational State of Bolivia as is currently stipulated in the country's 2009 Constitution as its official name.

The ethnic indigenous people groups are largely found in this landlocked country. The Lord has ever since put in our hearts a special desire and a special love for the Indigenous ethnic groups.

".. Let us go over unto the other side of the lake.
And they launched forth."(Luke 8:22)

Thus, were the words of our Lord in His earthly ministry with His disciples as recorded in the Gospels.

This has always been what the Lord has led us particularly to minister to in Yunnan since 2001. Bolivia is a wonderful country with rich traditions and a strong cultural heritage.

However, underneath the beauty there is an environment of sin that reaches into all areas of life. With Bolivia being steeped in poverty, people go to extreme measures in an effort to simply survive. This manifests itself in many criminal and abusive activities that often enslave the Bolivian people. Religiously, on the surface, Bolivians seem religious. However, their faith practices are divided between the formal religion of the Roman Catholic Church and the pagan religions of the Andean people. One national leader in an article I read lately said: "I'm Catholic, but I have my own religion".

There is a lot of confusion about Spiritual things among the Bolivian people. The picture is even darker with the element of open Satanism and Occult Superstition. Poverty, crime, abuse, superstition, and outright paganism are only symptoms of a greater problem that can only be solved by Jesus Christ. We believe the message of the Gospel is the only way that these types of problems can truly be changed. The Gospel is the only message that offers true hope and change and Bolivians need this message---Jesus saves!

With what the Lord has laid in our hearts about moving on and "crossing over to the other side", we would like to ask you, our dear Beloved Partner, in the ministry to consider us this week in your prayers and to continue holding the rope for us financially as we will launch into Bolivia as the Lord leads.

Furthermore, we would also ask you, Beloved, to continue praying and supporting the work left behind in Yunnan. The Lord is sustaining the fruits among our brothers and sisters in Yunnan. Please pray also for their security and safety. Largely, most of them have joined our like-minded local partners' house churches in the southern and northern part of the city.

Our House Church's three locally supported co-laborers among the ethnic groups and also in the leper's colonies are lively and faithfully keeping on their respective areas of ministries in Yunnan.

To God be the glory! All these efforts are by virtue of the power of God as this ministry is His work. As Jesus has declared thus, "...and the gates of hell shall not prevail against it."(Matthew 16:18).

Thank you, dear Pastor and Church, for praying for us and supporting us as we labor in the regions beyond you.

¡Dios sea toda la gloria!

Peter and Maryknoll De Jesus
(Philippians 2:13)

