



October 2014

Preaching work where every single event attracts interested friends without fail... That's Bolivia.



For those who don't know the background, the ecclesia in La Paz, Bolivia, currently only consists of one local brother and two local sisters, with another sister currently living 900km away in Santa Cruz.* But this ecclesia has lots of interested friends, lots of potential! (* The ecclesia has shrunk from years ago due to three brothers and sisters moving overseas and sadly three brothers and sisters no longer in attendance)

Apart from the usual Bible classes, Memorials, informal get-togethers and special "one off" seminars, over the past couple of years, a Sunday morning/afternoon Acts class has been held with an average of seven interested friends attending in 2014. While guided by pre-prepared notes, discussion ebbs and flows, with many a passionate



La Paz Ecclesia and visitors. L-R Delma, Jackelin, Jo, Shimon, Carla, Dallas, Natalia, Shem, Freddy, Luke

comment to contend with, and clarify or correct at times. We have just recently finished working our way through the Apostle Paul's third missionary journey, seeing a man possessed, with a passion to preach the gospel to all he could. We've all been impressed by his example and have now commenced studying his journey to Jerusalem in chapter twenty-one.

Thursday night seminars attract an average of eight to nine interested friends, a number of which are different friends to those who attend the Sunday Acts class. A number of friends, from normal mothers and fathers to an ex-gang member, have openly expressed their excitement to find an ecclesia that actually studies the Bible, with God's help we hope and pray their excitement continues. Over the past 6 months we've started at base one -- the Bible, what it is, what it contains, what it promises -- and then progressed on to dealing with various proofs of the

Bible such as fulfilled prophecies, archaeology, textual accuracy... and the list continues as any Christadelphian would know. We then started considering "the Gospel" but were quickly interrupted by a great level of interest in the war between Israel and Hamas, so we obliged and spent a couple of weeks looking at what the Bible had to say about war between the Arabs and Israel and how this seems to lead up to the conflict of Armageddon. That's how it is in Bolivia, always plenty of interest and questions to get you off subject!

Personal classes are also held with two friends, in addition to a regular, more informal personal catch up with another. While all have their strengths and holes, one in particular, Francisco, is a pleasure to teach, his dedication to personal Bible study to ensure our teachings are correct really gives you a boost! Hopefully he continues as he would be a fantastic asset to this little ecclesia in La Paz.

The Correspondence Courses on offer are a common way of generating contacts. There are currently over 100 students receiving the courses which are posted out each month. The keenness of a couple of standout students doesn't allow them to wait a month -- they bring their completed lessons every week to the seminar and take off with the next set of lessons. Great to see some enthusiasm!





The end of May brought our Ecclesial Camp ("Convivencia") in which Brothers Don Luff and Paul Osborn led the eight studies to the general themes of "The Ecclesia" and "In the Presence of the King". Six contacts also managed to come along for the weekend which served well for forming a stronger relationship with each one of them.



Santiago Ecclesia. From left to right, B.Shimon, B.Luke, B.Richard. Damel, B.Cristian, Antonella, Freddy

For the month of July we were lucky enough to be visited by Brothers Luke Foley (England) and Shem Spina (Australia) and sister Natalia Van der Meulen (Australia), in addition to sister Colleen Uiga (US) living in Bolivia for the five months of April through to August. It was quite nice to be able to default to English for a while, even though sometimes it still seemed we needed the gift of interpretation between us.... But on a serious note, that's definitely a plug for coming down to Bolivia! The little ecclesia here gets a real boost from getting to meet more of their brothers and sisters! Just speak to Bro. Don Luff to arrange your trip down here!

Also during July, Brothers Luke, Shem and I popped over to Santiago, Chile, and enjoyed catching up with the small ecclesia there for the breaking of bread and a study session together.

With plenty to do and plenty more that could be done, we look forward to seeing you in Bolivia!

God bless

Shimon & Jo Spina (along with Dallas & Zander)

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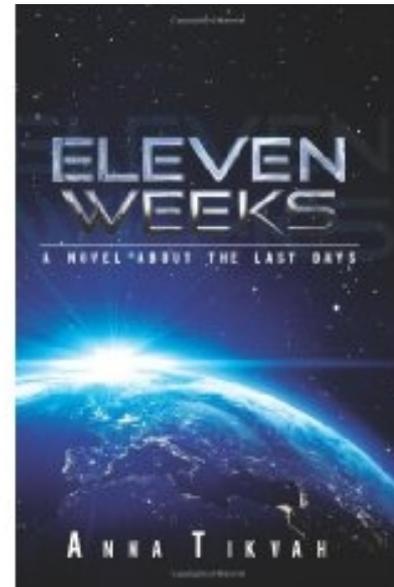
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