

W5 on Missions

“For we cannot but speak the things which we have seen and heard.” Acts 4:20

Who... June and Pablo Castellon

June, a native Maritimer, went to Boliva with CBM Community Health and Evangelism in 1979. She met Pablo in her second term and they were married in 1986. They have two children Eliana and Arturo, both born in Bolivia.

Pablo has pastored since 1972 under the Bolivian Baptist Union, the National Church organization which CBM works alongside of in Bolivia.

Where... Cochabamba, Bolivia

Bolivia is a land locked country straddling the Central Andes Mountains in West Central South America.

Sucre is the judicial capital; La Paz, the administrative one. Population: almost 9 million people

The principal ethnic group is Indian (more than 1/2 of the population); Mestizios (mixed Indian and European ancestry) account for 1/4-1/3; the remainder are white primarily Spanish. The two largest Indian groups are Quechua and Aymara.

Government: a republic with a president governed by a Congress.

Major religions: 95% of the people are Roman Catholic. Many combine traditional pre-Christian beliefs and practices with Catholicism.

Life expectancy for women is 68.6 and 63 for men. Infant mortality 51.8 per 1000 live births.

What... June began volunteering at Carachipampa Christian School when Eliana and Arturo began studies there in 1991.

CCS is a Christian school under SIM (Serving in Mission) for Bolivians, international students and missionary children.

June is presently the school nurse at CCS even though her children are here in Canada.

Eliana is at Atlantic Baptist University in Moncton, NB; Arturo is in first year engineering at UNB in Fredericton, NB.

June also works alongside her husband as he continues to pastor the Vinto Baptist Church near Cochabamba.

When... June started out on a slightly different path when she went to Bolivia but her ministry has been invaluable.

Today she is thanking God for his promise of Psalm 121:1. *I will lift up my eyes to the hills from whence cometh my help? My help comes from the Lord who made heaven and earth.* And Psalm 121:8 *“The Lord shall preserve your going out and your coming in from time forth and forevermore.”*

These promises are not just for June and Pablo who celebrated twenty years together this summer but also for their children who are far away from them in Canada.



Why... Prayer concerns from June's Fall newsletter:

In early October there were 16 deaths and 80 injuries in the small mining town of Huanuni where Pablo grew up and where four of his brothers and sisters live. More than 100 families were left homeless and all are fearful of further conflicts. Pray for the government and the Lord's intervention so that further conflicts will be prevented.

Pray that people will turn to the Lord for comfort and salvation.

Update from June: “Thank you for your prayers and support... Another calendar year is coming to a close remarkably quickly... Tensions are rising daily in political circles in Bolivia and we feel concern for continued unity and democracy in Bolivia which means we feel that freedom of speech and freedom of worship, along with other freedoms we take for granted, could be lost in the not too distant future. We hear this concern voiced these days here in Bolivia as it has not been for many, many years.

We are concerned that the members of our church and every Evangelical church in Bolivia be rooted and grounded in the Word of the Lord so they will be prepared to stand firm and shine as lights in the darkness, regardless of the situation. We want to be faithful in teaching His Word, “in season and out of season”, at home, at church, at school and wherever we find ourselves. ...Thank you for your prayers and support.”

Pray that God's people will be ready to give a testimony “in season and out of season”. That would be a good prayer for us here in Canada as well as in Bolivia.

God Bless you in this new year as we all do mission as God leads and gives us strength each day.

Lorna McCain

Corresponding Secretary for UBWMU/ABW

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