

Spotlight on CBM

Bill and Janice Dyck

Canadian Baptist Ministries
Global Field Staff, Bolivia

by Ruth Anna Dana



Pastoring of Pastors is the main emphasis of ministry for Canadian Baptist Ministries field staff Bill and Janice Dyck. During the first lockdown in Bolivia the Dycks worked for five months from their apartment, supporting the Bolivian Baptist Union (UBB) pastors through prayer during the emotional grief of losing loved ones to COVID-19, and providing practical help. After receiving their permanent Bolivian visas, they returned to Canada in August 2020.

We can appreciate Bill and Janice's worldwide vision of missions and wide range of experience in ministry. The Dycks have served in various capacities with Canadian Baptist Ministries since 1999. In 2017, they undertook learning another language to join the CBM ministry team in Bolivia. Among other outreaches, Bill took responsibility for speaking at pastoral conferences, creating pastoral support groups, and teaching seminary courses. Janice was working with children and youth by developing a music training program for them.

At the present time, with up-to-date technology, they are working full-time to support the work from Calgary. They await God's timing to receive COVID-19 vaccines and then return to Bolivia. In their September 29, 2020, prayer found on the CBM Prayerline, the Dycks approach the Lord with assurance that he already knows all the details and he is in control. (You can find their prayer at www.cbmin.org/prayerline - scroll to page 6 to participate in prayer with them.)

In January, Bill resumed the scheduled weekly discipleship meetings with the pastoral support groups in Bolivia.

He continues with hours of spiritual formation training through the UBB seminary. Preaching online in a Bolivian church is an expected ministry. In some cases, outreach for the Dycks has grown as relationships deepen in these difficult times.

As the new year began, a second wave of the pandemic hit Bolivia even as some churches were beginning to hold in-person services again. Bill states that "there are some bright spots in the midst of the trials. Some churches have seen increased numbers on mid-week Zoom prayer meetings. Rural churches often ignored COVID precautions, continued meeting as usual, and have seen increased attendance and baptisms, especially among those coming home to their rural roots with absence of work in the cities. Through CBM's help, pastors have been helped through three relief projects."

With the goal to assist the most vulnerable, all of the recipients have been screened according to reaching those in most need. About \$13,000 given through Canadian Baptist Ministries has helped the families of 100 pastors who have received no income due to the pandemic. The project has provided food hampers, medical supplies, COVID tests, and funeral expenses for pastors and family members lost to COVID. Approximately \$6,000 was provided for the initial, basic needs of the Baptist seminary students, as well as to cover the cost of the Internet to continue their education. Other funds have been distributed to ministries in Cochabamba, helping 57 families through Casa de la Amistad, which ministers to children of incarcerated parents, and Jireh, which reaches out to street youth.

Prayer is requested for the denominational and seminary leadership. The UBB has been working with a skeleton staff of three people. Pray for economic recovery for the majority of Bolivians who rely on daily wages but have no work. The most vulnerable need prayer: seniors and families with children to feed, and households where women and children are more at risk of abuse.

Sources: December 2018 Tidings; CBM Prayerline September 29, 2020; Dyck CBM ministry updates; CBM Calling October 27, 2020; and email with Bill Dyck.



"He has made everything beautiful in its time. Also He has put eternity in their hearts, except that no one can find out the work that God does from beginning to end."

Ecclesiastes 3:11, NKJV



Photo courtesy of Bill and Janice Dyck