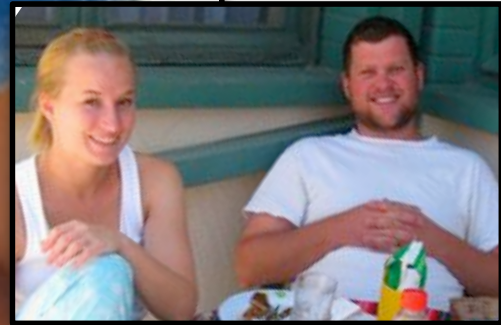


# Faces of Bolivia

LETTER #5 JULY



**SIM**  
Serving In Mission

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This is my Veggie lady. Every Saturday I would head to her stall for all my veggie needs. I became friends with her daughter Naomi who wanted to learn English. We would talk in Spanglish and decide what I was going to cook that week for dinner!



Fabiana and Leah. Two beautiful girls from church that were a constant source of giggles (and spanish instruction). It was such a blessing to get to know them and their parents through church. Every week I was delighted to be greeted with a bright "Hola Ezmay" by Fabi

**Maria!**

My sweet friend from next door. Her parents owned the little restaurant around the corner. Maria and her brother worked at the restaurant with her parents and I would pop over to borrow Maria to play with me at my house. There was a slide and swings at the guest house so it was never hard to entice her to play.



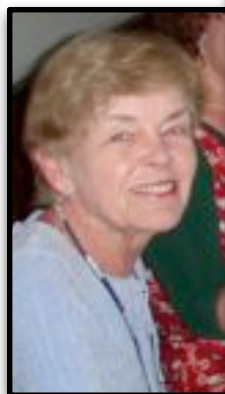
Ledy and Lisa - Lisa (in blue) is my good friend from Newcastle that came and spent time with me over christmas. Her time in Bolivia was a real blessing to me and to CCS as she filled in teaching for almost a term.

I meet my dear friend Ledy in my second week in Bolivia. Ledy was one of the Monday night crew and I am so thankful that I got to spend the year getting to know her. Ledy is studying medicine and dentistry at University. She has a grand amount of patience that was proved every week as she taught me Spanish. She is a Christian and likes to spend time sharing Jesus with children and young adults. Ledy loves music, singing and playing the guitar (which she does very well). She first heard about Jesus at a holiday camp when she was 10 in her home town of Capinota. I was able to visit Capinota a few times over the year and fell in love with this little town a few hours outside of Cochabamba. Since moving to the city to study, Ledy says that there are many more opportunities to learn about God and living for Jesus. Ledy is also a fan of "Wally" (a version of volley ball played inside a squash court) and will try to get people to play any chance she has. I thank God for my dear friend and for her joy, love and kindness.



**Iglesia Presbiteriana en Cochabamba  
My Church.**

This is some of my church family celebrating Pastor Carlos's birthday. Church was a real blessing. It was a family. I was able to meet every week with these lovely people and be challenged and encouraged about God (and my Spanish!). It was here that I was also given home remedies for illnesses, fed really well and told over and over again that Cochabamba was the best city in Bolivia to live in! What a joy and a privilege to be a part of this church.



Carmen was our Year 2 teacher. She is 79yrs old. She loves rollerblading, talking about Jeaus and is a real encouragement to me. Here is some of her story- After my husband went to be with the Lord I knew that I had to keep busy serving the Lord with my life. So I started praying about what I could do and how I could serve. Then I was talking to some missionary teachers and they shared the need for teachers in Bolivia. I prayed and ended up in Bolivia. It was wonderful to see Christians serving God so faithfully. It was a privilege to teach children the word and to see how God is so faithful at providing teachers for CCS. Please pray that the Lord will lead me as I continue to serve him.



Mis Niños! (Well most of them)  
 My dear Year 3 class. What can I say about this lively bunch of kids? They are a precious and unique group of kids that mastered the ability to make their teacher smile! Whether it was by asking the most unusual questions, working hard at their work, trying out their Australian accents, praying for each other, speaking Spanglish, or just simply smiling themselves. Miss Wicks couldn't help but smile and be entertained. They are a special group of kids and I am so grateful that I had the privilege of teaching them about the world and about our God who made it.



**Amalia-** The short term coordinator for SIM, who seeks to serve missionaries and the Bolivian community. She is a great support and also gives you all the really helpful practical advice- like teaching you how to get to the shops and then how to get home again!

**Joanne-** Has made Bolivia home for about 20 years now. She is a counsellor and serves by helping people through difficulties as well as training local Bolivians in counselling.

**Becky-** Has also called Bolivia home for nearly 20 years. She is a teacher at GCS and was 'lucky' enough to have the year 4 class just next door to me! She serves God in teaching the students faithfully and sharing his love with them.

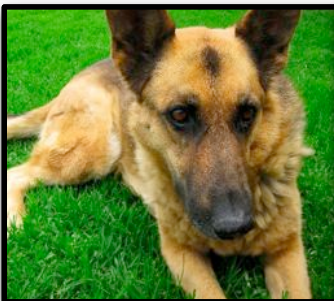
**Freddie!**  
 Freddie was a young lad that worked in the Saturday market. He would carry our purchases all the way to our gate and chat away as he went. Such a funny, happy kid he always made my day. This is a really common job for kids. It is a great way for him to earn some money and for me make a new friend. On this day Eddie his little bother came along as well.



**Jose.**  
 Jose was another market friend. Over the year we progressed from a hello, to comments about the weather, to little chats. There are no disability benefits in Bolivia, so collecting money at the markets is Jose's Job.



Jhon (and yes I spelt it right- thats how you get it to be pronounced John in Spanish!) Jhon and I also met at a dinner in my second week in Bolivia. Jhon is a student and is about to start studying at university. He is a brilliant self taught guitarist (who until recently didn't own a guitar) and a very good but sometimes reluctant singer. Monday nights were always filled with the sound of Jhon's music. He likes to play the hilariously fun "Wally" and also has a competitive streak that you will be introduced to if you ever sit down to play cards with him! Jhon is a Christian. He first heard about God at a Christian camp when he was young. Although he says that it wasn't until he was invited along to a church by his Compassion programme that he made a choice to live for Jesus. Jhoncito is a cheeky lad with a comforting sense of humour. He would always take just the right amount of opportunities to mock you. He is gentle and will tell you just how much his life has changed since becoming a Christian. Jhon is grateful for Compassion and for the ways that it has helped him, practically and in learning about God. For those who pray, Jhon would appreciate prayer for his family who don't know Jesus. And I would like to thank God for my dear friend and his friendship.



Shabene, the guest house dog. The sweetest and gentlest dog in Bolivia - except if you try and climb over our wall...!

Then Peter began to speak: "I now realise how true it is that God does not show favouritism but accepts men from every nation who fear him and do what is right. Acts 10:34,35

I want to thank you for sharing with me over this past year and experiencing Bolivia with me. It was a blessing to be able to spend the past year in a different part of God's world and learn about him through many different experiences. It was not an easy year, but the best experiences rarely are. It was tough at times, but there was plenty of opportunities to learn. There was also being sick, there was a bit of loneliness. There was frustration at the time difference and the difficulties in trying to call Australia. There was being looked at funny (curly red hair gets some attention in South America). There was "learning" Spanish and making people laugh when I tried to speak Spanish. There was teaching a beautiful group of year 3 students all about the world and our Great God (all with an Australia twist!). There was spending Monday nights with some of the most awesome Bolivians- the wonderful, cheeky, guitar playing Jhoncito. The kind generous, caring, with a voice of an angel Ledy. And the slightly crazy, sweet, and ever so funny Jhonny. There was meeting some dedicated brothers in Christ that have moved their families and lives to Bolivia to serve God and make him known. There was sharing laughs with friends over the joys of life and tears over the sorrows. There was praying with and for people. There was missing people and special events. There was making memories with precious Bolivian children. There was encouraging other Christians and being encouraged. There was drinking milk from a bag and eating kebabs off bicycle spokes. There was practicing to trust God in everything- really everything. There was the privilege of learning about the God of all nations from people of a different nation. There was hanging out with donkeys. There was praising God for his wondrous creation and generosity. There was sharing with you through all this.

And now getting to thank God for all of it as well.

Muchas Gracias  
Love and llamas  
ezmay



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