

# WONDERS OF SCIENCE



“... bringing life to science”

**BOLIVIA EDITION**

## MERRY CHRISTMAS FROM THE ORTNER FAMILY!

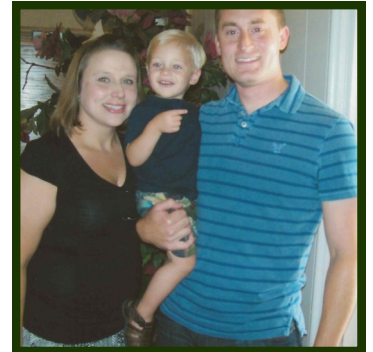


Dean and Terry

*Dean, Terry and their family wish you a wonderful Christmas celebration remembering our Savior's first coming while anticipating His soon return.*

*We are thankful for each of you who continue to stand with the Wonders of Science Ministry in prayer and support. Without you, the work would not be possible. So Merry Christmas and have a blessed New Year as you continue to put your trust completely in Christ Jesus alone.*

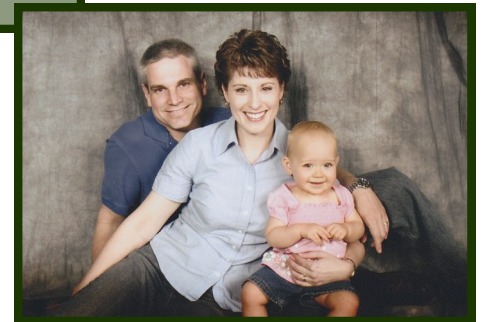
*Dean & Terry*



Steven, Amber and Matthew



Tim, Stacy and Brendan



Robert, Stephanie and Annelise

### A Chance Encounter and We End Up In Bolivia!

A program the magnitude of Wonders of Science often takes years of planning. We visited northern Illinois with the series several times over the past many years and have seen the Lord work in amazing ways.

A couple of years ago at a multi-community, multi-church event sponsored in part by “Cup of Cold Water Ministries,” the founder and his wife were our hosts for our stay. Unbeknownst to us the current director was in the audience, all the way from New Jersey. He approached those who had arranged for WOS to be there and said that our type of program was exactly what was needed at that time in Bolivia. The organization had a missionary in Bolivia with a science background who could act as a translator.

The director of the ministry felt they needed a person with a science/faith background who could speak at the level of the target audience of university professors, teachers and eager students. Dave Johnson, a chemical engineer by training and a distributor/grower of hybrid corn and soy beans was an obvious choice as a local man. He asked that I accompany him. I was reluctant at first, but God gradually made it very clear that this was His direction.

Once our Whittier Christian Junior High graduation concluded last June, we had two days to drive to Chicago, catch an afternoon flight that took us the rest of the day and all night to get to La Paz, Bolivia, landing at an airport that was 15,300 feet in altitude! We met Phil Kittleson, our La Paz host, at the airport, and then met Dave Hiller, our translator from Caranavi.

The next day we hit the ground running. On our way to Caranavi we had our first experience with the terrors of the “Death Road”. Dozens of seminars in major cities were held for the many teachers, students and their friends attending the science demonstrations and Power Point Presentations included in the seminars.

It was amazing to be a part of what could turn out to be the beginning of an awakening for Bolivia to the truth of the Genesis account in Scripture and the Creator's hand behind it all. The acceptance of evolution is so pervasive in Bolivia that a foundation of Creation by God's hand is much needed in this culture, much like the Apostle Paul did for those in Athens before the gospel was presented.

### To say that I was nervous would be an understatement!

Just before I was to bring the Sunday morning message to an English speaking church in La Paz, Bolivia, our host leaned over to me and said, "The man playing guitar in the praise band is the Dutch Ambassador. His wife is next to him singing. Behind you, across the aisle is the



Ambassador and his wife from Brazil. About two rows ahead there are a couple of Bolivian diplomats. Don't be nervous."

What an opportunity to have the Creation message and a reminder of the gospel presented to such fine folks holding very key positions of responsibility in their respective countries. We had a wonderful time talking after the service during the fellowship time.



## The Secular Radio Interview



Imagine an opportunity to reach millions of South American listeners in one sitting! Such was the experience offered to us in La Paz on a secular radio station. Local Christians are allowed a one hour slot on Saturday evenings on a powerful secular station. The signal reached many countries in South America.

The program format was a call-in talk show where I spoke through our translators Dave Hiller and La Paz host, Phil Kittleson. The guest announcer for our segment was a fine Christian who was so excited about this unique opportunity and guided the conversation toward evangelism.



The switchboard was overwhelmed with call-in questions and the station actually extended our radio time an extra 10 or 15 minutes to handle more calls. In the end, we offered any caller or those who contacted the radio station a Spanish DVD of Illustra Media's "Unlocking the Mystery of Life." Illustra Media's team was so gracious in providing an extra 300 DVD's for the station to send out. We also provided many additional DVD's with our PowerPoint notes and the Spanish movie "Expelled." They were brought in by courier after a couple of weeks by a medical team that Phil Kittleson was guiding during another of his medical outreach ministries.

Secular radio interview! The program potentially reached millions in Bolivia, Peru, Brazil, Paraguay, Chili, Argentina, and Columbia!

## BE INVOLVED!

### Praise:

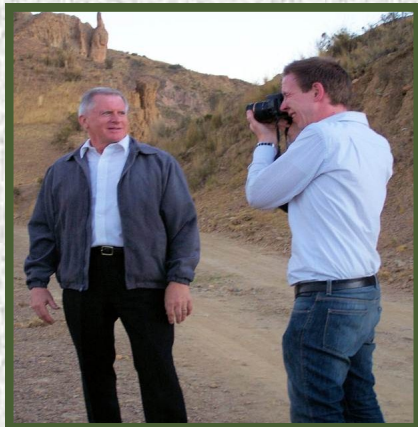
- Safe and fruitful summer outreach in Bolivia.
- For continued inquiries about Wonders of Science programs.

### Prayer:

- Pray for the Summer 2012 opportunities, for necessary support and prepared encounters.
- Pray for strength and time for Dean to prepare and complete all duties with teaching and WOS programs.

**Wonders of Science  
Counts on You!**

## FINNISH REPORTER



Morton and his family are from Finland. He is a magazine writer assigned to Bolivia for a two year tour. He writes articles for a European magazine and a newspaper for the Common Market countries. Morton and his family attended one of the messages we gave in church while in La Paz. Afterwards he asked if he could do an interview about the impact and impressions we experienced regarding our message of Creation and its Creator, Jesus. He wanted a newspaper and magazine article on the impact our ministry is having on the Bolivian Pacha Mama (“Mother Earth”) worshipers and their reaction to God’s creation of the universe. So, again the Lord provided yet another outreach opportunity. This time half way around the world, and through a different medium, the printed page.

We met later that Sunday afternoon so Phil took us up to the ring of mountains surrounding La Paz. One particular site is called “The Devil’s Tooth,” a jagged protrusion of sharp tooth-like rock jutting toward God’s heavens. It reminded me of how Satan was cast down out of heaven and “snapped at” Jesus’ heel, wounding Him, but Satan will someday be cast out of creation to never bother God’s family again.



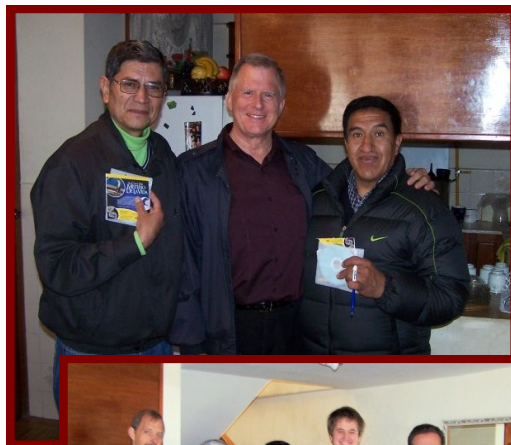
Dean with Morton, a Finnish reporter writing for the European Union.

## PRAYER BREAKFAST

Early one Saturday morning we had the wonderful experience of attending a prayer breakfast held in John Donhowe’s home in La Paz. Mr. Donhowe’s wife and son were hosting the meeting.

Some of the attendees were Fernando and Pedro, two Bolivian Army Colonels who love the Lord. Also, Oscar a local missionary/pastor and Luis, a retired congressman from a family of political leaders and Presidents. In our midst was Sulma, the daughter of a large city’s mayor who is under tremendous political persecution because of his steadfast stand for Christian principles.

Please pray for each of these dear brothers and sister and their tireless ministry, especially for Sulma’s persecuted father. Also, remember that the Creation message and therefore the authority of God’s Word is unfamiliar to so many in Bolivia. Even though he was a believer, one of the Army Colonels was unfamiliar with these issues.



Morning prayer meeting with two military commanders, Congressman and a Mayor’s daughter.

## COMMENT CORNER...

*“I was not really aware of a viable alternative to evolution. Thank you for the DVD explaining more about this.”*

**--Camp Director to staff colleague--**

*“I have been teaching that maybe we did evolve from monkeys, but now, after hearing your seminars, my thinking has changed.”*

**--Bolivian seminar attendee--**

# CULTURAL WORSHIP



The nation of Bolivia has a new President and his desire is to turn the country back to its pagan roots of Mother Earth worship. The Earth goddess is called Pacha Mama and is very highly revered. This includes the worship of Satan along with the usual occult trappings, e.g., witch doctors and shops selling amulets and talismans for good luck to ward off evil. The most unusual thing we saw were llama fetuses to be burned as offerings. A number of these came as prepackaged, ready to burn kits for sale.

We were so pleased to experience the fellowship of strong, conservative believers who were followers of Jesus Christ and who were active in sharing their faith. Their churches are incredibly friendly and caring. It was a moving experience to see the entire congregation turn to us and sang a welcome song. The lump in my throat was so huge I could hardly breathe.

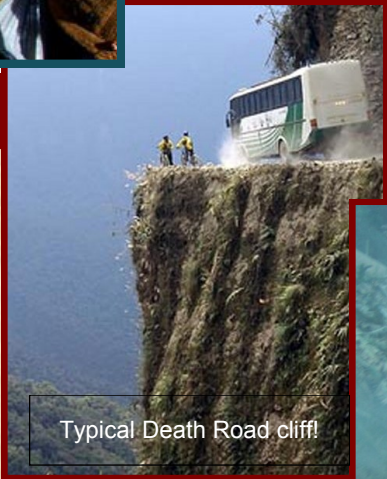
Winter Solstice sun/mother earth worship. Hands upheld to receive heat energy and blessings from burning llama fetuses and sacrifices (above).  
Witch doctor forecasting the future in beer bubbles (below middle).  
Witch's shops selling amulets and talismans (below left).



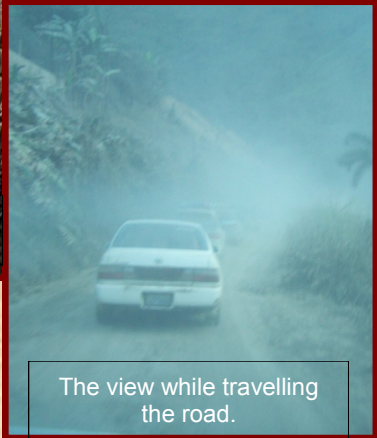
Death Road Traffic we faced for hours.

## Death Road

I hadn't heard about the Death Road until after talking with a native Bolivian who attended our home church. Twenty deaths per mile, is the highest anywhere in the world and we had to drive it. Twice! We later heard that a taxi had gone over the cliff and all had perished just an hour before we headed down! Coming back later that month we hit a rut with the taxi's rear tire (where I happened to be sitting for this trip). We were inches from the edge of the cliff and I thought for sure we were going over. I let out a "yelp." Visibility was horrible at times except for the 2,000 foot drop into the gorge, but God saw us safely to our destination.



Typical Death Road cliff!



The view while travelling the road.



The Death Road has no guard rails, but lots of dust and children. We saw children playing in puddles in the middle of the road, or casually walking along the cliff edge. Village homes perched on the knife edge of the abyss were a common site. Also on our trip down to Caranavi we helped two newlyweds arrive at their first ministry station. To experience life on the field first hand, they volunteered to sit in the back of our translator's pickup truck. The before and after photos are telling!

These new missionaries are real servants for the Lord!

# SEMINARS



Maribel counseling a student.

The Bible tells us that the Lord can move the hearts of kings. I also found that He can move the hearts of military commanders and academy administrators, as well. Over the years I have periodically scheduled programs at the Air Force Academy and at West Point. The demanding schedule, as rigid as one might expect at a military academy, can seemingly be altered only by an "act of God." That kind of a result is what happened a number of times over the years as the Academy Commandant requested additional programs.

In Bolivia, this happened after Dave Johnson and I finished some of our student seminars. One class would be brought in for a scheduled program and afterwards another would join them until the auditorium was packed again. The students seemed to have had a wonderful time and we received many questions about creation and the gospel. After one such experience, Maribel, our translator's wife, counseled with a student for 30 minutes.

Hans, a German engineer, was working in the large city of Santa Cruz and used his time to also start a youth creation group. We enjoyed sharing ideas after the seminar in Cochabamba.

Some schools were poorly equipped, while others seemingly had an abundance of support from their sponsoring churches in the US and Asia. One group was arriving from the US with a full orchestra who planned to leave their entire collection of instruments behind for the school!



Dean with Pastor and Hans.



Students at seminar.



Dave Johnson

Dave Hiller



Caranavi seminar.



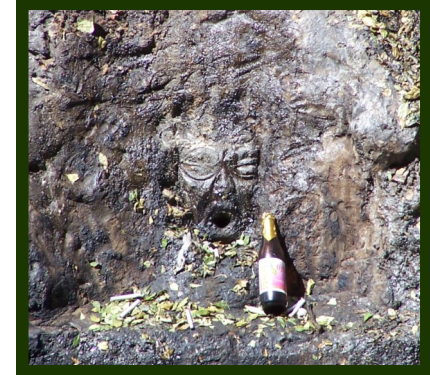
Dean answering student questions.

## MORE BOLIVIAN PHOTOS

"Satan face" at alter where Devil worshippers meet every Thursday (below). Typical Andean street merchant (right).



Christian hitchhikers we worshipped with enroute (above). Cows just passing through town (below).



Cochabamba seminar.



# WCS WONDERS OF SCIENCE

Dean Ortner  
6548 S. Newlin Avenue  
Phone: 562-699-5426

**Check Out Our Website at:  
[www.WhittierChristian.org](http://www.WhittierChristian.org)**

*Address Correction Requested*



## Cincinnati, OH Meetings

The most unusual series that I've been requested to do recently was actually scheduled in a church auditorium during the three morning "sermon" hours. The very progressive pastor and his staff designed the first service as an equipping service. It focused on in-depth Bible teaching and foundation building for evangelism. The second two services were aimed directly at those uncomfortable in typical church settings, those who came with many genuine questions about faith in general.

Since we were there in early July, no one was sure who might attend from the community. However, they had the largest crowds of any summer program with standing room only for the first time. The interaction on stage after the Wonders of Science presentation was memorable to me because of so many comments expressing thanks for such a clear presentation of Bible truths.



Merry  
Christmas

