

Ehlers Family Letter



April 2011

Getting Ready

Our tickets are booked for May 10th and the countdown is on! We've been packing, getting together with friends and family, and preparing our paperwork to leave the country.

Last week, our church commissioned and prayed for us, which is an experience that we think everyone should have, whether they are serving God across the world or across the street. It was a very neat experience to know the support that our church has for this ministry, and it also made this journey feel real.

We've been talking about going to Bolivia for more than half of Miles' life (he's three), and as we get ready, we've been trying to explain moving the best we can. Some days he asks, "are we going to Bolivia today?" as casually as if we were going to the grocery store. We're excited that Corina and Marco (directors at El Jordán) have a two year old, so Miles will have a little friend as soon as we arrive.

Neither of us has been away from family for more than a couple of months, so this is our first time in life saying a big "good-bye." Our good-byes started last week and we still have nine more days full of them, before we start saying "hello" in Bolivia.



Construction site of new men's ministry building

Our New Home

Once we get to Bolivia, we'll likely start off living at El Jordán, in a 4th floor apartment. We'll be close to work for Jess, and a bit farther for Sam who will probably be helping with construction at the new property (where we'll move once an apartment is completed there).

Please pray...

We have a great flight schedule, but this will be Miles' first time on a plane – please pray that he will stay calm and cheerful!

That we will settle in to our new routine quickly once we arrive, so we can be effective early on.

Learning Curve

As we finish up packing and saying "good-bye" here, we've been trying to imagine what our life will look like in Bolivia. Since we've never been there, it's hard to picture what the experience will be like, so we gather information from El Jordán's newsletters.

In the latest letter, Corina talks about a young woman who went for brain surgery this past week. In Bolivia when a person goes into surgery they need to provide their own medication, surgical gloves, anaesthetic, IV fluids and sometimes even the equipment to do the surgery (which can be rented). This is very different from Canada's Medicare system, and was important for us to learn details like this one.

Besides the medical system, we will be learning a new political and school system, as well as a new language, culture, climate and routine. Thankfully, in our situation, we will have guides who know the ways of Bolivia and are able to help us as we learn them.

Praise to the LORD

LORD, you are my God; I will exalt you and praise your name, for in perfect faithfulness you have done wonderful things, things planned long ago.

ISAIAH 25:1



Partner with Us

Thanks so much to everyone who has supported us! We feel extremely prayed-for over the past few months, and we've seen the fruit of those prayers as God has brought us up to 98% of our financial support needs!

Every decision to give is important to us, and to God's Kingdom. If you would like to give, and to help us cross that vital 100% mark, please donate online at:

www.avantministries.org/give

Or mail payment to:

Avant Ministries
2121 Henderson Hwy
Winnipeg, Manitoba
R2G 1P8

Our project number is **11846**.
Sam & Jess Ehlers
sjehlers@avmi.org
samandjess Ehlers.blogspot.com

