

The Cunninghams in Bolivia

December 2021

<http://cramandaham.blogspot.com>

Hallelujah! What a Saviour!

SOMETIMES IT'S GOOD to adjust to someone else's rhythm, and that has been the way of it since joining Trinity International Church. We had never really properly marked the season of Advent before. But these days, we really look forward to December.

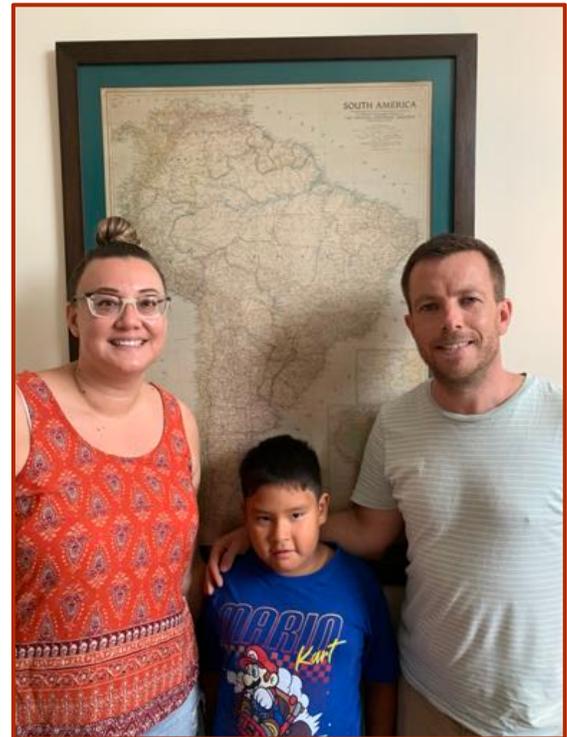
I (Craig) especially relish the opportunity to trace God's plan of salvation as I prepare sermons at this time of year, and recently it was a thrill to revisit Mary's great song, the *Magnificat*, in Luke 1.

There we see that, in Christ, God has brought about a *personal* salvation. 'The Mighty One has done great things for me', she sings. We could do much worse than appropriate Mary's awesome words for ourselves, offering them as a hymn of praise to our Saviour.

It is also a *surprising* salvation. Mary prophetically details all the ways that her Saviour Son was to upend human expectations: the ruler brought down as the humble is lifted up; the rich sent away empty as the hungry are filled. How God delights to do the counterintuitive! He went to the cross 'for the joy set before him'. Saving the desperate sinner is no chore for him; it is precisely what he came to do.

Best of all, it is a *promised* salvation. Mary understands that in the coming of the Serpent-Crusher, God is graciously delivering what he had sworn to a people who time and again threw his saving work back in his face. Where we have been faithless, he remains faithful. That is good news!

Christmas is never as neat and tidy as we would like. It never has been! But that's OK. Because like a great star in the winter night, the darkness around us only serves to magnify what God has done in Christ all the more. Hallelujah!



Sam can

THANK YOU for your fervent prayers for Sam! He is doing so much better in school, no small thanks to his helper, Luís: he actually enjoys going to school now! In January, we hope to begin the process of reducing Luís's input. Please pray for wisdom.

Sam has also started playing football. A local coach has recently been visiting our neighbourhood three times a week to run fun sessions for younger children. Physically, it's been great for Sam, and it's also brought us closer together with our neighbours: a great bonus!

He even got up on stage at church with the rest of his cohorts to sing their Sunday School Christmas song. This is another thing he would have recoiled at not so long ago. We are so thankful to God for these answers to prayer.

Away she goes



AS STRIDE co-ordinator for the Bolivia team, part of Amanda's job is visiting short-term volunteers around the country. For obvious reasons, that work has been greatly curtailed in the last 18 months, but in late November, she was finally able to travel to high-altitude Oruro, to visit Andrew Robertson, just in the nick of time before he left earlier this month. Andrew has been serving in prison ministry in a team which includes long-term Latin Link member Julie Noble, ministering to inmates in the men's and women's prisons, and working with the children of prisoners. Amanda appreciated the opportunity to get to see a very different part of the country, and to come alongside both Andrew and Julie.

The Light Shines On

AT THE FIRST Christmas, the dawning of Immanuel sparked a furious reaction, not least from King Herod. Here, as in your own country, we are having to contend with Omicron, but also with 'principalities and powers' at work in some very challenging situations we have been involved in. Please pray for wisdom as we come alongside others who are struggling, and pray that this darkness would be completely driven out.

Still, there is plenty of encouragement to be found. Craig recently attended a missions conference, getting to know many local pastors for the first time, and thinking in depth about the good news and the gospel needs of our city.

We have also come to the end of our 2021 sessions with the men's and women's Bible study groups. There is so much mutual encouragement to be found in our own congregation; we have a deep love for them, and we enjoy growing in Christ in their company. Amanda has also kept up her Bible Study Fellowship (BSF) commitment this year. We are sustained, and we give thanks.

Blog cramandaham.blogspot.com

Podcast cramandaham.podbean.com



Sam (top-left), plus footballing friends.

Prayer Points

- Give thanks for God's goodness to us in 2021.
- Give thanks for the great encouragements in Sam's life recently.
- Pray for sustaining grace as we minister to various individuals just now.
- Pray for good rest over the Christmas break.

**LATIN
AMERICA
MISSION**
CANADA



 **Latin Link**
COMMUNITY WITH A CALLING