

Bolivia

By John Wry

I am privileged to be part of the Bolivia team that continues to work with a core group of disciples in the community of Los Negros. Going back every six months as part of the teaching team has truly been a great training ground for me. In all honesty, I would have to say that I am actually one of the ones being taught, since my initial understanding of biblical grace really began at a DM2 workshop in this very community.

For the last two years, Carlos Tellez and I have been going to Bolivia a few days early in order to reach another area of Bolivia, where an old friend of mine, Daniel Paredes, resides. Since Daniel began organizing DM2 workshops in the city of Cochabamba, we have taught through the book of Romans numerous times. In some cases, two workshops have been held at once, one on each side of the city!

It is what occurred at one of these workshops that I would like to share. We were nearing the end of the workshop and had just finished reading dozens of verses confirming our security in Christ due to His faithfulness and promises to us. As soon as we opened up for questions, an elderly gentleman at the back spoke up: "We agree that salvation is a gift of grace, but what happens if you lose that gift?" He continued to explain how a family member had fallen into sin and had obviously, according to his understanding, lost his salvation.

Once more we tried to explain that since salvation is a gift, it can't be lost. This resulted in a lot of loud discussion between those who insisted that if a person has unconfessed sin at the point of death he or she will be lost eternally and those who believed that believers cannot lose their salvation.

In the midst of this, as Carlos explained in more detail what the Bible says, I noticed that near the front of the room a couple of visiting pastors were disapproving. As I watched, their opposition grew stronger and louder: "Yeah, yeah, whatever you say. Let's just get this over with. Give us our books so we can go home."

I wondered how I could help them better understand that salvation is solely a work of God's grace totally apart from any human effort. I sent up a silent prayer and pulled a chair next to them. Putting my arm on one of the pastor's shoulders, I kindly asked, "What is your real concern?" He began to explain that they believe salvation is like any other gift. Though you receive it for free, you have to take care of it or you may lose it. As I listened, God gave me the words to address his concern.

However, by this time the meeting had clearly reached an impasse, so we ended in the customary Bolivian way, with prayer and an opportunity for those in attendance to share testimonies. As one of the pastors I had just talked to made his way to the front, I thought, "Oh, no! Here we go!" But what happened next left me in tears (of joy that is).



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December 2018 Bolivia Bible Study Methods Workshop

UPCOMING WORKSHOPS:

- **January 10-20**
Costa Rica
Romans 1-8 in two locations
- **February 7-18**
Liberia
Life of Christ Panorama
- **February 18-22**
Sierra Leone
1 Corinthians
- **February**
Kiev, Ukraine
Romans (2X) and Colossians
- **April**
Lviv, Ukraine
Proverbs 1-9
- **July 31-August 4**
Dallas, Texas
Women's Workshop
Romans 5-8 Free in Christ
- **March 15-17**
Pleroma Bible Church,
Tullahoma, TN
John part II
Youth Workshop
- **February 15-17**
Eastern Washington
University
Daniel



Hands-on practice

The pastor proceeded to explain to everyone that pastors make mistakes and that the workshop had actually been a great blessing to him. He said that what had tipped the scales for him was the kindness of the teachers. He thanked the DM2 team and said he planned to continue to attend the workshops. Wow! After returning to Canada, I received the news that immediately after the

workshop this pastor began teaching the DM2 Romans material in his church. Every time I go to Bolivia I return home encouraged by the Bolivian believers' hunger for the Word of God and by what God is doing in their lives and in the lives of those they teach.

PRAISE AND PRAYER:

- We are very thankful for everyone who keeps up with DM2 news and prays for this work. God continues to open doors on many fronts.
- As I write, a Revelation Youth workshop is in progress in Harlingen, Texas.
- Pray for God to raise up many courageous and willing disciple makers who would be faithful to teach others wherever God would lead.
- Pray for the teachers to rightly divide and understandably teach God's Word.
- Pray for translators and interpreters to be accurate as they communicate God's truth in other languages.
- And lastly, Bret and Wanda Nazworth want to thank everyone for praying for their grandson, Aydon Robinson. When the surgeon removed his tumor, the cancer was 100% dead. This is a miracle and an answer to prayer! Aydon must still finish the scheduled chemo and will have to learn to walk again in a few months, but the family is so thankful for your prayers and praising God for this miracle!



January 2019 Revelation Youth Workshop