

continued from front

Building Bridges: First Conference of Bolivia Churches

Christian & Patricia Escobar — Santa Cruz, Bolivia

The first conference for the International Churches of Christ here in Bolivia was a great success, with over 100 visitors joining our Sunday service for a total of almost 300 in attendance. It was a weekend of much fellowship, inspiring and deep classes focused on various topics of the Christian life.

- Jeff and Lisa Chacón (Tampa, Florida) were our main speakers sharing classes for the leadership and women.
- Ariel Prieto (Tallahassee, Florida) shared a class for teens, filling them with vision to go and advance the kingdom of God in their schools.
- Kevin and Noelle Broyles (La Paz) helped us by sharing how to raise our children in a spiritual way to love God and their parents.
- Raul and Monica Barrientos (La Paz) helped with their constant spirit of service in translating the classes.
- David and Jessica Pineda (La Paz) taught the campus students, encouraging them to rekindle the fire and bring the mission to universities so the foundation of our society can have a meaningful Christian purpose.
- Henry and Carmen Burgos (Cochabamba) taught the singles, encouraging them to build spiritual friendships.
- Amado and Saddy Mole (Santa Cruz) taught the parents of teens about building bridges with their children.
- Cristian and Patricia Escobar (Santa Cruz) taught a marrieds class and were a vital part of the direction of this incredible encounter between the churches of Bolivia.

Thanks to all for not only providing us with your company, friendship and experience, but for your hearts and sharing your walks with God.

We are deeply grateful to all the brothers who collaborated in the organization and execution of all the tasks that required attention during our conference here in Santa Cruz; without them it would not have been possible to achieve the level of excellence we saw.

We are also grateful to those who gave their homes to the disciples from La Paz, Cochabamba and abroad. We are grateful to those who worked in the planning and organization of the classes. In the end, we were tremendously blessed by God with all those who visited us and who worked hard to glorify God once more in his church.

For our part we give thanks to our God for blessing us with our church in Santa Cruz that has demonstrated once more their very big heart to serve and to love others. Our deepest desire is to continue growing and building bridges for many souls to know God and become our brothers and sisters in Christ.

We are confident that this will be the case and we declare by faith that at our next meeting, we will bring back smiles to the face of our loving Father in heaven.

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- **When Being a Grown-up Means You're Still Growing Up**
Elizabeth Laing Thompson, Wilmington, NC
— Tuesday, 03 May 2016

My daughter's chocolate brown eyes are sparkling. "Mommy, I'm going to plant these apple seeds, and they're going to grow into trees, and then we're going to save money and eat free apples forever!" Cassidy holds out her hand. A dozen tiny seeds rest in her...

- **US Ambassador Attends Event at U-West Indies**
Tony Martin, Trinidad & Tobago — Tuesday, 03 May 2016
The U.S. Ambassador to Trinidad and Tobago, John L. Estrada, attended a concert hosted by the University of the West Indies, St Augustine, (UWI STA). The Department of Creative and Fine Arts, in partnership with HOPE worldwide Trinidad and Tobago and...

- **Here Am I, Send Me!**
Dan Allison, China — Friday, 29 April 2016
A few days ago I listened to all 66 chapters of Isaiah in my Zondervan Audio Bible – in one day. It was thrilling. As I was listening to the inspirational chapter six, the reader surprised me with his interpretation...

- **Russian ICOC Facebook Page Hits 12,600 Likes**
Igor Petrov, Ekaterinburg, Russia
— Wednesday, 20 April 2016

We are glad to share our good news with you! My name is Igor and I am a coordinator of an information project called "Good News from ICOC." About a year ago...

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DT DISCIPLES TODAY

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Western Elders Conference Celebrates 10 Years

Written by Disciples Today

The beautiful artists haven of Santa Fe, New Mexico played host to 52 diverse couples representing 25 of our churches in the western United States, Canada and the Philippines for the 10th annual Western Elders Conference. The group honored John and Nancy Mannel for their leadership through the years since the inaugural conference began with just 21 couples.

Sam and Geri Laing of the South Florida Church of Christ taught powerful lessons on the theme "Give Me the Hill Country" for these elder couples and those aspiring to serve. Roger Lamb presented a world report from Disciples Today and an update on the leadership collaboration for the International Churches of Christ.

The Greater Albuquerque Church of Christ served as marvelous hosts for this year's conference thanks to the leadership of Keith and Lynne Page Rasmussen, Josh and Stacy Peterson and Armin and Megan Day.

Next year's conference will be hosted by the Seattle Church of Christ from March 23-26.

Footnote: After the Mannels served in Chicago and Los Angeles for many years, they moved to St. Louis a couple of years ago when they financially retired. On Sunday, May 1, their son Jeff Mannel appointed John as an elder in the Gateway City Church that is hosting Reach2016 in July.

• UPCOMING EVENTS

Melbourne Singles Retreat

Melbourne, Australia

May 27-29, 2016

2016 Asian Discipleship Summit

Bali, Indonesia

June 16-19, 2016

2016 North American Discipleship Summit

St. Louis, Missouri, USA

July 7-10, 2016

2016 European Discipleship Summit

Kiev, Ukraine

August 2016

2016 West and Central African Discipleship Summit

Accra, Ghana

August 5-7, 2016

2016 Australian Discipleship Summit

Sydney, Australia

September 23-25, 2016

CONNECTING DISCIPLES IN
CHURCHES AROUND THE WORLD

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continued on back