

The Murnahans
Missionaries to Bolivia

- making disciples
- training leaders
- reaching the lost

Serving Nacer Ministries boys and girls orphanages

**"I will not leave you as orphans;
I will come to you."** John 14:18

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Greetings and thank you for taking the time to learn more about how God is using the Murnahans as we dedicate our lives to service for Him. My wife Lauren and I have four children (Landon 13, Luke 7, Lincoln 5, and Hannah 9). The following narrative is intended to summarize our calling, vision, and goals for a lifetime of service to our Heavenly Father.

I received Christ as my savior in 2006 while serving in Iraq with the United States Army. I served for 6 years and was honorably discharged in 2008. Upon my return to the United States, God was already dealing with me regarding a lifetime of ministry and expanding upon my experience of serving our country, to serving Him full time. Lauren and I were directed to a bible believing church and began serving in any capacity possible. I enrolled in Appalachian Bible College, located in Beckley WV in 2009 and graduated with a bachelor's degree in Theology and Pastoral ministries in 2013. Our local church is also our sending church, located in Bland Virginia, operating as Mechanicsburg Christian Church (MCC). MCC is an independent, non-denotational Bible believing church. We have adopted the Doctrinal Statement of Faith of MCC (attached) as our own and we hold these same beliefs as our doctrine and guide to living our lives for Him.

Currently, we reside near Atlanta GA as we endeavor to raise support for our calling. We are faithful to the service of God in our local church Cornerstone Bible Church, but we remain members of MCC, where we served as Youth Pastor and Assistant Pastor for over five years. During my tenure at MCC, we served in many ways including:

- Soul winning;
- Discipleship to both the youth and adults in the community;
- Preaching and leading services when needed;
- Organize evangelical outreaches, usually geared toward youth; and
- Assisting my senior pastor in prayerful stewardship of God's house and flock.

During this time of service, God clearly called my family and I to be missionaries; however, our field of service was not quite clear. We partnered with a Mission Board, Biblical Ministries Worldwide (BMW) and began seeking God's plan for our life of service. In June of 2017, I was able to go on a short-term mission trip to Bolivia where we ministered to three separate orphanages. It was on this trip that God began to burden my heart for the people of Bolivia. In October of 2017 I returned to Bolivia with Lauren, our pastor (Tom Maurer) and the BMW Area Director for South America, David Rozelle. It was on this trip that God confirmed our call to serve in Bolivia and kindled a fire in our hearts that grows stronger every day.

Bolivia has a population of nearly 11 million people. We are called to serve in a small town/village named Taruma, located south of Santa Cruz. The primary religion in Bolivia is Roman Catholic and there are very few, if any Bible Believing churches. The orphanages have three homes a girl's home and two boy's homes with a total of 69 children. These children have been abandoned, abused and neglected in the most heart-breaking ways imaginable. Thanks be to God, and the service of Bolivian orphanage directors, Miguel and Edly Zucchetti. these children have a safe place to live and food to eat. However, there is still a gap in the life and development of these kids, and that gap is spiritual leadership. We know, beyond the shadow of a doubt, it is God's will for us to fill that gap.

Our vision is to establish a permanent residence in Bolivia so that we may disciple the many children in the orphanages, while simultaneously evangelizing the community and establishing a local church. A church building, which is open to public, already exists in Taruma near the boy's homes. The children of the orphanages attend church there on a weekly basis as the orphanage director leads them in worship and bible study, but they need a pastor. The community needs a pastor! Our desire is to go so that we may train up nationals who can join us and continue the work of soul winning and discipleship in the community. This will enable us to broaden the outreach as God sees fit. It is the prayerful desire of Miquel and Edly that we come and serve alongside of them, with our focus on soul winning and the spiritual growth of the children and the community. The orphanages will be one of the primary beneficiaries of our ministry; however, we are not, and will not, be directly connected with the operation or administration of the homes.

I struggle to find an adjective strong enough to adequately describe the burden and love that God has placed in our hearts for the people of Bolivia. The field is truly white unto harvest! Our hearts desire is to make it to the field as soon as possible to relieve some burden from Miguel and Edly, thereby allowing them to potentially expand their ministry, which is to care for the fatherless as James 1:27 instructs.

Currently, we are soliciting prayerful support and financial partnership from likeminded, born again believers that recognize the tremendous need and importance of this work that God has called us to. We are looking for partners to come long side of us and join in this ministry. We have already seen God do amazing things from the confirmation of our calling, to directing us to the right people to partner with us in prayer and financial support. We ask you to prayerfully consider joining with us as we serve in Bolivia.

In Christ

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