

## **News from Nicky & Ronny Irene in La Paz, Bolivia, 5 May 2008**

How are you? We are ok although life is very hard here. Yesterday was the controversial referendum for regional autonomy and as it was illegal has caused loads of problems. One of our friends who is a TV reporter was beaten up in El Alto and is in hospital. There were demonstrations and others all over although the actual referendum was in Santa Cruz. We had normal church services and obviously spent most of the time praying. We also had a joint service last night with other denominations.

Ron went last week to meet the president and was interviewed on TV. He and other church leaders went to a prayer meeting last Wednesday to pray for the country but were not allowed into the place they were supposed to meet in. They were told that they weren't allowed in because the president had ordered this. Anyway this was all over the news and the next day Ron and a few other leaders went to meet the president and pray but it got so controversial that Ronnie actually walked out of the palace as they started speaking against autonomies; and as the point of them meeting was to pray for the president, Ron left. There is a lot of uncertainty in the country and we have been all over the world news as a country in crisis, etc... It affects us as everyone is so worried and you can feel such heaviness spiritually.

When Ron went to the palace last week he says that when the cabinet members passed him he felt really bad. Anyway we are ok and just getting on with life.

Today is Ronnie's birthday. He is 38 years old.

The post office is open now [after a strike] but I don't go much because it is in the centre. I may try and go this week.

We have had no water since Saturday morning and it will be back on tonight hopefully. They are cleaning the tanks.

With all the trouble we haven't had many kids at church.

God bless,

Nicky