



Worshiping God through Food and Drink in Bolivia

Fritz and Brenda Harms traveled to Bolivia in August to teach introduction to Reformation History and Ruth, respectively. They soon found themselves immersed in a culture of food, fellowship and worship unlike anything they have seen in the U.S. or in their travels abroad. Here they recount their experience.

Fritz: We had lots of opportunities for fellowship around meals after classes. They're not really excitable people. They're not overly expressive. But again and again, they asked us to have food with them afterward.

Brenda: Usually it was after the morning class. One person would come up and say, "I have some questions to ask." We'd go get a bite to eat. Then it would turn out there were 12 people who wanted to talk to us. One time, we went to a small restaurant. We filled up the whole middle of the dining room area.

Fritz and I got in the habit of sharing a plate. It was heavy food. We ate a lot of potatoes, rice, beef, quinoa and fermented potatoes. We even had llama. The beverage at one meal was barley water. It was non-fermented and served at room temperature. That was different. It wasn't bad at all. The only thing bad was the fermented potatoes. We liked all the other food we ate.

Fritz: I've gone on 10 trips for ITEM. These meal experiences in Bolivia were unique. It made a difference that we were in an urban area. People were more talkative. People in rural areas might be more reserved.

Brenda: One thing that stuck out to me was how young the church members were. They were all shocked we've been married for 31 years. Some of them weren't even 31 years old. They asked so many questions—about life, about marriage, about parenting. They asked how we met, what we fought about, how we dealt with jealousy in our marriage.

The meal made those questions possible. You're taking the time to be together. It's a relaxing atmosphere.

One evening, a bunch of them were planning to meet at the food court at the mall. They asked us to go. We're thinking, a youth group meeting at a food court in the U.S., how many would you get? Five? Eight? By the end of the evening, there were 40 people there. They put table after table together.

How to Contribute

In the U.S. send contributions to ITEM, PO Box 31456, St Louis, MO 63131 or through PayPal at item.org.
Email: lwhesterberg@gmail.com.

Contributions to ITEM in Canada may be sent to:

Action International Ministries
3015A 21st NE
Calgary AB T2E 7T1

Phone # 618-939-5069



Big Diving Deep into the Future of Everything

By Bill Boekestein, pastor, Immanuel Fellowship Church, Kalamazoo

I began my course on eschatology in Belize by reading from Romans 1. That verse has little to nothing to do with eschatology.

Paul tells the Roman believers that he longs to come to them that he might impart to them some spiritual gift, so that they might be established (v. 11). But then he nearly corrects himself. “That is, that I may be encouraged together with you by the mutual faith of both you and me” (v. 12). This was certainly my experience. I came to Belize both to teach and to be mutually encouraged with God’s people there.

I was delighted to visit the small village of Louisville and meet the two pastors leading the presbytery training—Juan and Leogardo—and the pastors, church leaders, school teachers and students who attended the lectures. Before beginning my first lecture we discussed our expectations of the eschatology course I was prepared to teach.

It was noted by a student that eschatology seems to have been co-opted by cults and churches that are less carefully submissive to Scripture.

Biblical Christians often are unclear what to make of the Bible’s end-times teaching and sometimes fail to give it the attention it deserves.

My lectures, drawn from my new book *The Future of Everything: Essential Truths about the End Times*, began with biblical evidence for the practicality of the topic, and the best practices for interpreting the prophets.

We also tackled death and the intermediate state, topics theologians call “personal eschatology.” We covered “general eschatology,” too—Christ’s return, the millennium, the resurrection, final judgment, hell and the new heavens and earth.

And this brings me back to Paul’s verse. It’s all about encouragement, and we should be encouraged by the end of eschatology, too.

Prayer Requests

1. Praise for instructors teaching God’s Word all over the world in August. The list includes John van Schepen and Bill Boekestein, who taught *Living in Grace*, *The Coming Kingdom*, and *Eschatology*, respectively in Belize; Willie van Schepen, who taught *The Armor of God* to women in Belize; and Bob Clark and Jim Roszell, who taught *Revelation* and *Pneumatology* in Kenya.
2. Pray for David Smith, who will be teaching *Romans* at KRBC in Ukraine Sept. 23-28.
3. Pray for Bill Wilton and Maurice Sikes, who will lead a preaching conference in Romania Oct. 3-5.
4. Pray for the seamless transition of the executive director role from Will Hesterberg to Tom Smith.
5. Pray that Tom Smith’s new defibrillator and pacemaker will be effective.

Check us out on Social Media

ITEM is on **Instagram:** @itemmission. Follow our journeys and tag us when you go on yours.

Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/teachingnationalChristianleaders/>