



**Patricia Nacho Vargas**  
Canadian Baptist Ministries  
Global Discipleship Coordinator  
*Bolivia*

**Who?** Patricia (Patty) Nacho Vargas is a passionate follower of Jesus Christ. Born in La Paz, Bolivia, she has been invested as a leader in the Bolivian Baptist Youth in the local church throughout her life. Before joining Canadian Baptist Ministries, she worked as an auditor for the Norwegian Mission Alliance in Bolivia.

**When?** In February, 2015, Patricia joined CBM as the global discipleship coordinator for Bolivia.

**Where?** Cochabamba, Bolivia.

**What?** Patricia manages work with CBM's Bolivian partners and churches, as well as the dynamics in communicating effectively with the Canadian Baptist church family. She says, "During the past year, it has been a wonderful experience for me to understand more about both Bolivian and Canadian churches, and to see how God is working with and through us. I have been blessed to have great colleagues that are serving as CBM field staff in Bolivia. I think that our work as a team will strengthen our abilities and gifts."

by the vinchuca beetle which lives in the walls and roofs of adobe homes. Consequently, it most often infects those who cannot afford to modify their residence. This is where the volunteers will come in to help by plastering the walls and ceilings of these families' homes and pouring concrete on the floors.

Last year, Bolivian volunteers joined the team of Canadian volunteers, which gave a great opportunity to connect with some local Bolivian churches and reflect together on integral mission. Integral mission is a focus for Canadian Baptist Ministries around the globe, and strives to help Christians integrate faith and life.

"This year will be challenging," says Patty, "as we will be working with the Chagas project in another community, Aiquile, a four-hour drive from Cochabamba. This is very exciting as we want to engage the church in the things we do. Our aim is for them to be 'salt and light' in their community. It is good to develop new relationships and get to know the church family."

**Why?** Canadian Baptists have had a presence and relationship with Bolivia for more than a century, playing a pivotal role in major issues, such as constitutional amendments for religious freedom, pioneering access to education for indigenous groups, and land reform. CBM partners with the Bolivian Baptist Union (BBU), to promote the transformation of individuals, communities, and the multicultural Bolivian society with Christ-centred values, in spite of the challenging context of poverty, corruption, and inequality. Together, Canadian Baptist Ministries and the Bolivian Baptist churches support leadership training, evangelism and church planting, and programs for community development.



Kallie Hutton

Testing is done for Chagas disease in Bolivian communities.

**Pray for Patricia:**

- as she begins a small group Bible study for the young women in her church;
- that she would be intentional in connecting with the people in her church;
- for safety as the teams travel to Mizque and Aiquile;
- and, that she would be able to teach English to interested people in her church.



Patricia (R) and others on their way to Mizque to work on a project related to Chagas disease.

Over the past two years, Patty has worked with nine groups from churches across Canada. It has been a great time of growth and learning. CBM supports a range of projects in Bolivia through which Canadians can serve and get involved. Examples include leadership training, health-care initiatives, and work with at-risk children.

Short-term mission teams that visit Bolivia are exposed to many different projects, but this past year, the majority served with Chagas initiatives for at least a portion of their trip. Chagas is a parasite that is spread

**Helen Hopper**

**UBWMU/ABW Corresponding Secretary**

Sources: Patricia Nacho January 2016 CBM Update, and February 2017 personal letter