

# Believable

By Shannon Lee Kraft

Celebrating Mission, April 2025

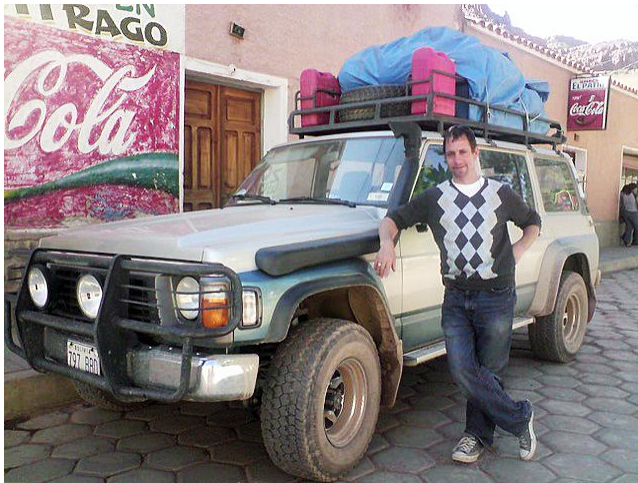
[Note from Editor Bill Moberly: I became aware of Nick and Shannon Kraft’s ministry last fall through our mutual friend Jerry Watts, Senior Pastor of Faith Lutheran in Albuquerque, NM. (Shannon graduated from Lutheran Bible Institute in Seattle, WA, in 1991 and Jerry in 1993.) The Kraft’s long and fruitful ministry in Peru and Bolivia is not broadly known in the LCMC and NALC. We discussed ways ALWM and GO Missions International could work together, and this article was one of them!]

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## Go, Love and Serve

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In 2008, my husband Nick and I were itinerant missionaries based in Bolivia. Traveling in our Nissan Patrol and motivated by the verse from Matthew 10 about simple living, we went from town to town, healing the sick and driving out demons. Our motto was “GO MISSIONS” and our motivation was simple: GO, LOVE and SERVE. We were deeply involved in this when we felt the nudge of God moving us into a vision and a dream.



*Nick Kraft with the Go Missions vehicle, on the road in Bolivia and beyond*



Did we dare? We had read this tiny little book called *Imagine* by Frank Demazio, sub-titled: *Believe in the Power of a Dream*, when something divine happened.

We were traveling back to Bolivia from Viña de Mar in Chile (a journey of over 1,100 miles), and just as we headed into the desert we realized we didn’t have any water. With a car full of kids and a long endless drive ahead, how could we be so careless? After a few miles of wondering if we should turn back, we saw

this colorful hut on the side of the road. It was brightly painted and strangely situated. Nick pulled over and said, “I’m going to ask here.” He walked up to the house and disappeared for a few minutes, then came back to the car. “Babe come... you have to see this.”

We walked to the back of the home where a man was watering plants – an oasis in the dessert. How did he have water? How were these plants growing in this desolate place? As we chatted, the man told us about bringing life to the dessert. He asked us about our journey, and we began to see that we were speaking to another believer. Every time I used the word “unbelievable”, he would correct me and say, “BELIEVABLE”. I would continue talking and again would exclaim, “It was unbelievable,” and the man would correct me: “Believable”. As we filled our water bottles and jugs, he said, “You need to change your vocabulary... with God, nothing is unbelievable. Everything is Believable.”

As we got back into our car, our youngest son Tucker said, “Mommy, do you think they were angels because their eyes sparkled?” And I said, “Believable.”

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## God Was Moving Us

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We arrived in La Paz and began fasting, praying and dreaming. We spent nights awake, talking as we dreamed. Through the years we had gathered a following of university students that called themselves Go Missionaries. They gathered to pray every Friday evening and stayed until everyone fell asleep. In the morning, all got up and went off to the University or to work. We told them what we thought the Lord was speaking to us and asked them to pray.



*People praying at the gate at the 2016 inauguration*

God was moving us. Did we have the faith to obey? The word obedience was in our minds like block letters on a whiteboard. As we had pulled out of Viña de Mar in Chile, the pastor had held up a whiteboard that had that single word on it: Obedience.

**Faith** and **Obedience** are interchangeable. Not the same words, but actually the same thing. When you go out on a limb in obedience, that’s when you start to have faith. When you have faith – when you trust God – you obey, and by doing so you walk into the supernatural, where God makes the “not yet”, “Believable”, as if it were.

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## When the Dream Tarries, Use What's in Your Hand

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Go Missions International (GMI) was established in October 2010 as a 501c3.

We moved to northern Peru in 2010. The dream was to buy a property and build a place that we and the local churches could use for discipleship. Our personal dream was to settle in and put down some roots, to plow, plant and work the fields, and to trust God for the harvest.

We started out our time in Peru sharing a house with some friends, a Peruvian girl who was married to a Bolivian guy. Our three worlds in one house. We didn't know where to start. We didn't have money to just go and buy a place.

We moved into a rented apartment right across the street. We decided that we would use what was in our hands. We rented the bottom floor of the apartment building and used it as a classroom. It had a bathroom and a back storage room that we used for a dorm room.

We enlisted the help of a local pastor to lend us bunk beds and we were off. My friends used their rented house as a dining room and boys' bedroom. Nick and I gave up our bedroom to house the teachers, and we moved in with our kids. We knew this simple living.

Our first 10-week Discipleship in Missions School was inaugurated in 2011. We were on our way! Teachers came from Bolivia, Go missionaries came to help and lead. The Holy Spirit swept in and filled in all the details. The Lord was leading us by the hand, and it was **Believable!**

*Unity group dynamic at the old place*



In 2014, we began in faith to look for properties after finishing the Discipleship School. We couldn't keep going in the present buildings – we needed to expand. The Vision was bigger. Again, we were on our knees in faith.

The week we bought the property was hairy. The real estate agent said, "You've got until Thursday." Our board of directors said we needed the money up front,

that we would not go into to debt. It seemed impossible. We had been raising money, but it wasn't enough. By Tuesday we were still lacking \$11,000. The real estate agent came for a visit, and we said it didn't look like we were going to make it. He, an unbeliever, believed. He said, "When we started this you didn't have any money and now you only lack a third – are you sure your God won't do it? We awoke on Wednesday morning and prayed. We couldn't see any other way; God would have to do it. We sent out a few letters and made a Facebook page with a link. And waited.

All night we watched as the money came in through big chunks and little ones. When we awoke on Thursday morning, we lacked \$5,000. The real estate agent came and we bowed our heads. He asked us to go back to our board to beg them to take out a small loan. We assured him that it wasn't going to happen like that... that if it was to be, God would have to do it. He left, but by noon on that day, July 4<sup>th</sup>, 2014, we received a call from our secretary, saying, "Shannon, you won't believe it! We've got it!!"

In 2015, we moved onto the property while we finished getting it ready for use. We were homesteading, again living simply.

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## Tragedy and a Plot Twist

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Early one morning, armed men came into our doorless entryway. Nicolas had heard them and before I knew what was happening, shots were fired and Nick was subdued. The only doors were on our room and the kids' room. The kids behind their closed door began to sing. I could hear them, Moi leading in the song, *Oceans*, and then, *I Have Decided to Follow Jesus*. As their door came down, I could hear TJ speaking the name of Jesus. He shouted, "Jesus loves you, Jesus loves you," and then his voice changed and he shouted, "You're bringing a curse on yourselves. This belongs to the Lord." Maddy, busy hiding things, got smacked in the face. TJ was hit on the head with the blunt edge of a gun.

When it was all over, we were alive but our faith had been shaken. More than things, they stole our joy. Like Job, we heard from the gamete of councilors: "You should go home. What did you do to deserve this?" We were faced with the cost of the Call. We were depleted, tired, dumbfounded, and physically wounded. Nick had been severely beaten, and fire from the sawed-off shotgun had left burns on his ears and face. We were sad.

A pivotal moment came when a family of Peruvians came to attend to us. They prayed in every corner of our property and then emptied a bottle of olive oil onto our heads. The reverberations of this tragedy continue to play out in our lives, yet the oil of healing poured out that day continues to flow into the cracks and crevices where faith was lost.

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## Casa del Alfarero

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*The Potters House Ministry Center*



*Pat Lelvis cutting the ribbon for the inauguration in 2016*

In 2016 we inaugurated **Casa del Alfarero (The Potters House)**. People came from Bolivia and the USA, and our three worlds came together for an amazing celebration. We knew that God was doing it. **Casa del Alfarero**, a discipleship and renewal center, is home to many seed-sowing and discipleship opportunities. We help sacrificial servants rest, reconnect and rejuvenate so they can continue to rise in ministry and where those seeking Jesus can encounter Him through His creation. We invite people through a variety of experiences to come into contact with Jesus and His Church. We provide camping events, such as Immerse English Camp, VIVE Camp (a five-day holistic healing experience for women), and our 2-month Discipleship in Missions Training School (CORE).

Plenty of other activities take place throughout the year, providing options to invite those who might not be comfortable going to church, but who are willing to try Jesus through this third-party connection. We also serve the Church through active exercises of praise, through massage and spiritual counseling.



*My three worlds: Peru, USA, Bolivia*



*Yesmi Loza and Daniela Chacolla Bolivia field at the party*



*Go Missions International Bolivians and Peruvians and Americans all together to celebrate in 2016*

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## Celebrating 15 Years in 2025

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The vision is far from complete, but it's established. This January we came together from the U.S., Switzerland, Bolivia and Peru in Celebration. This is what God does: He puts a dream in your heart and then in faith He calls you to the **Believable**.

*USA, Peru, Bolivia & Switzerland at 15-year anniversary*



**To learn more about Go Missions International, contact us:**

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**To partner with GMI, click here:**

<https://www.gomissionsinternational.com/give>



**Shannon Lee Kraft** has been a missionary to Bolivia and beyond since 1998, and is currently based in Chiclayo, Peru, on South America's northern coast. In 2010, she and her husband Nicolas founded Go Missions International. Currently, they run a discipleship and renewal center called **Casa del Alfarero**, "The Potter's House".

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**Links:**

Bolivia: <https://www.britannica.com/place/Bolivia>

*Imagine*: <https://store.frankdamazio.com/products/imagine-believe-in-the-power-of-a-dream>

Viña de Mar: <https://www.britannica.com/place/Vina-del-Mar>

Chile: <https://www.britannica.com/place/Chile>

La Paz: <https://www.britannica.com/place/La-Paz-Bolivia>

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