

June 15, 2020

Hello Prayer Partners, we have been very blessed by seeing the response from our supporters for the food distribution ministry here in Bolivia. We have seen God's provision in a big way. We wish to say THANK YOU very much for your generosity and your prayers. I wish I could say this is over with, we are in the clear, and the quarantine has been lifted; but I cannot. The quarantine continues and it was extended twice since I last wrote. Today we are experiencing day 87 of total quarantine, with the same strict rules. This is actually turning into a nightmare for so many, but if you pay attention you can see God is at work and blessings abound in the turmoil and chaos.

An explanation as to what is happening here: most Bolivians thought the Government was on top of this, ordering supplies, 100's of ventilators, creating emergency hospitals for the sick, ordering tens of thousands of tests kits and getting masks and suits for those working with Covid-19 patients. 87 days later very little of this has materialized, and if it did it was faulty equipment. 2 States out of 9 in Bolivia are the hardest hit and those medical systems have been overrun with patients, some of those patients are medical staff. The ventilators that came were not the right kind and the government paid 3 times the price for them. An investigation followed and corruption was found and the perpetrators are in jail. But now there are not enough ventilators. In our City of Tarija an Emergency Hospital was bought that could house 100 patients. But no one seems to know where it went. The public hospitals in Tarija have 16 Intensive care beds for a population of 500,000. Now the Government is saying we will reach our peak in Mid-July, but for now the quarantine is to last until June 30, we shall see. They lifted the quarantine in other States only to see a rise in cases, so those states returned to a stricter quarantine.

Our State also has seen a rise in cases and seems to be behind everyone else, which has everyone very concerned.

To add to this, we have the extreme socialists screaming for an election, those were the ones who cheated and stole last November's election and that caused a 45-day siege by the people, which led to the toppling of the dictator's govt. These extreme socialists cried foul, saying the virus was a fraud and a way for the opposition to hold power. Therefore, they tried all they could to disrupt the workings of the interim govt. But in the last 2 weeks their base located in the coca/cocaine producing regions of Bolivia is now the hotspot for the virus after gathering in protests, and of course they blame the govt for planting the virus in their region.

In the midst of all this we keep ministering to those in need. So far, we have distributed food and the Word of God to more than 600 families, some of those families have received a bag twice, and the neediest have received a bag 3 times. We ask the families if they would like prayer as well and most say yes.

In our traveling we have encountered other needs, one of those is clothing for the neediest. During the quarantine the only thing legally being allowed to be sold is food stuff. Well winter is upon us and winter clothing is not permitted to be sold legally, if you can find it you have to find a way to get to it, as there is no public or private transportation, and if you could you need money to buy it, kind of hard when you can not work. We asked the church for donations and we were blessed with lots of clothes and shoes. We still lack certain sizes, but now we know what we lack and will attempt to buy some this week. Also, we ran across a lady who fell sick 2 years ago and the Dr.'s do not know why, but she needed a wheelchair, we asked the brethren and we had a like new wheel chair donated that week, under the condition that the Gospel be shared with the person receiving it. We were able to deliver the wheelchair last Thursday and we got to talk to her, her daughter, and her 2 grandchildren about the Lord for about an hour. Wish I could say they accepted the Lord, but they said they were not ready. We have been invited back again to visit. Please pray for Aide (Mother) and Cynthia (Daughter) and the 2 grandchildren.

In the morning we will be going to the city to make our 4 am purchase for 100 more families as we do about every 10 days.

While we have sought to help others, we found that God has His ways of blessing us. We have been able to meet new people, and hear their stories, some are very sad. We have seen areas we never knew existed. We have seen God's hand in providing for needs. We have been touched by the kindness of those who have nothing to give, but have given to us anyway.

We have seen God's protection, God's beauty. We have seen many smiles as we have been able to minister to others in the time of their need. New doors have opened for ministry. We have experienced God's promise, in that we cannot out give God, if we give in faith and not expect something in return. Malachi 3:8-10

That's the story, and it is still unfolding and we looked forward to seeing how God will write the rest of it.

Praises: God's continued provision, protection and the opportunity to continue to serve Him.

Prayers Requests: Wisdom, Our health, and for the Word of God to find its way into the hearts of those who receive it; and that God would continue to lead us to those He wants us to minister to.

Thank you for your prayers and your financial support. **For His Glory, Matt. 5:16**

Rick & Sheila Ackerman