



RICK AND SHEILA ACKERMAN  
MINISTERING IN BOLIVIA

May 25, 2021

Greetings Prayer Partners, and friends from Bolivia. We pray that this report finds you all well. We sure find ourselves in strange times, with what is going on the world. But let me tell you about what is going on Bolivia.

Concerning the run-off elections in the country it appears the Bolivian people elected mostly conservative governors and mayors. This is good, as it will keep the socialists, who control the national government in check to some degree. Concerning the Covid Virus, we find ourselves in the 3<sup>rd</sup> wave of the virus. This wave is mixed in with the Brazilian strain that is proving itself to be very deadly for young people. Currently our local hospitals are full and 90% of the patients in ICU are young people. The medicine and oxygen to treat covid has run out in some areas. Our local health director said today, "Wednesday Tarija will run out". Is this wave worse than the first? They say yes because every day a new record is broken. Our community is definitely in a crisis!! We need your prayers. Why is this so in Bolivia? Bolivia lacks infrastructure in many areas, including the medical health system. It lacks funding for hospitals and supplies. Also, the poverty is a contributing factor, many people don't eat as well, or when they get sick they do not have the resources to buy medicine or go to the doctor. Even in a Socialist country good health care is not free!

It has been difficult to serve God in these times, but God is making it possible. We were able to have services in February, Then in March the Govt. put another quarantine in place and forbid meetings of any kind. Then April they opened things up, and we got to meet once, then our county had a car race 2 Sundays in a row, and we had to cancel services because the race uses our public roads, therefore cutting off access to church. The following Sunday we were excited to get back in church, then half the families in church came down with Covid, so we cancelled services. Sheila and I even thought we had covid, but we got tested and it was just the flu. Now we are all healed up and the govt. has declared Sundays off limits for any circulation of traffic, because of the 3<sup>rd</sup> wave of covid. We have been doing our meetings on ZOOM and Sheila did her first children's class with Zoom yesterday, it went well.

The good news; I see some in church growing in the Lord. We were able to deliver more food baskets to the families of the church who got shut in because of Covid. We have lost no one in the church because of Covid. We are also about to buy some land for a future church building.

On June 16 we are planning a trip to the States for 4 months.

I have 2 surgeries planned. One is a thumb joint reconstruction on July 7 and the other is a cervical fusion at a later date.

I did have 3 surgeries planned this year, but I was able to do the nose surgery here in April. A national pastor friend and his wife from the city will take care of the ministry in our absence.

**Praises:** For God's Faithfulness at all times and provision. **Prayer Requests:** For protection of the church family from the virus, The health crisis in Bolivia. That we would still be able to fly on June 16, negative pcr covid tests, on June 14, wisdom and God's guidance in the purchase of the church property. Thank you for your prayers and a great big thank you for your financial support of this ministry. We are forever grateful for your co-laboring with us and the Lord in Bolivia.

**For His Glory, Matt. 5:16**  
**Rick & Sheila Ackerman**