



January 30, 2019

Dear Prayer Partners and Family: Greetings from San Lorenzo, Bolivia.

We want to thank you for your prayers. Since our last prayer letter, our lives have been an emotional roller coaster. We have seen God do some mighty things and we have also experienced some vicious attacks from our enemy. But because you were praying for us and because God is on our side the victory is being won. Also I would like to say to all who sent Christmas gifts, thank you very much.

We are in the middle of summer with some torrential rains and you are in winter and we think of those who are experiencing those Alaskan temperatures. 20 years in Alaska helps to understand what it is like. Please be safe and if you have to travel, take everything you will need in case you breakdown.

In late Oct. we began to notice some things that concerned us that revolved around the young man, Robert who came to help us. We talked with him and we discussed these issues with him. We ended up giving him a second chance and we decided together he would have until after our Church's anniversary to decide if he wanted to stay or leave. To his credit for the next month he was a pleasure to work with and did very well. However after the anniversary he made the decision to leave.

Once Robert left, we had no one to step into his place until, Alvaro and his wife Rocio expressed an interest to serve in the church. We talked at length with them and they are learning to be youth leaders. Alvaro prepares messages and plans the youth services while Rocio supports him and looks for ways to minister to the young ladies. They have been a tremendous blessing these last 2 months. Rocio was saved through this ministry in 2008 and has grown up in the church, she married Alvaro a year ago and they both have been taking classes at the Bible Institute here in Tarija.

Some of the highlights since we last wrote were the Church's anniversary and our Christmas Candle Light Service. In early December Aldo and Daisy asked us to do a Bible study with Aldo's parents. We had the study at his sister's house, and not only were his parents (Luis and Ruth) there, but his sister (Sandra) her husband (Elio), their teen daughter (Valentina), and Aldo's Aunt (Zulma). God blessed the evening and five of the six were saved and added to the ranks of God's redeemed. Zulma had already accepted Christ at our church's anniversary 2 years ago.

The Political climate in Bolivia is changing. The president just ordered the first primary election, I think in Bolivia's history. The president for several reasons called for this election. One was to narrow down the field of his political candidates and two, to show he had the support of his party. Well the election was held on Jan 27, and it was a flop. Only 30% of his party showed up, and the 30% is debatable as videos show persons of the president's socialist party filling out stacks of voting cards and the other parties boycotted the election. It looks like the current president will not yield and will seek an unconstitutional run for the presidency. The result will be a year of blockades, as the opposition puts pressure on the president to pull his hat out of the election process.

On Dec 10 our daughter Sharon traveled to Bolivia for a visit with our mission's director Bud and his wife Karen. She sure was a blessing to have as our guest. Then on Dec. 27 I, (Rick) flew back with her to the States. The trip was two fold, to travel with Sharon to her home as she cannot travel internationally alone because of her medical condition, and to visit my parents. My parents recently were moved into an assisted living facility. My mom has severe COPD and my dad has Alzheimer's. My dad is quickly losing his memory, but thankfully right now he still remembers his loved ones at times. I am so thankful I have two sisters that live in the area who check on our parents daily.

Prayer Requests: Please pray for Jean Paul and Fatima, who were saved in Oct., as they have only been to the church a few times. Continue to pray for David, the son of Daisy and Aldo, he escaped from a treatment facility and says he is better and can do his own treatment. He is in much risk still as he has not accepted Christ. Please pray for Alvaro and Rocio as they learn to minister to the youth.

Praises: Salvation of Fatima, Jean Paul, Luis, Ruth, Zulma, Valentina, Sandra, and Elio. My safe return to Bolivia on Jan 24.

For His Glory, Matt. 5:16

Rick & Sheila Ackerman

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