



RICK AND SHEILA ACKERMAN
MINISTERING IN BOLIVIA

July 27, 2021

Greetings from your missionaries in Bolivia. We hope and pray that you are all well and in good spirits, how could we not be in good spirits, we have God on our side, with His power, His wisdom, His grace, His mercy we can face adversity with the, “*peace of God, which passeth all understanding*” Phil. 4:7

Today we write to you from the USA. There have been lots of changes in the last month, a missionary always goes through some major changes when they go on furlough. There is the adjustment to the culture, the climate, a cold winter for a hot summer, a new bed, new surroundings, and we exchange good byes for hellos.

We left the ministry in Bolivia in good hands, Pastor Francisco is preaching on Sundays, his wife Lilly is teaching Sunday school. These meetings have been by Zoom, as meetings were prohibited by the government until the beginning of July. We have been able to attend every service so far, even though thousands of miles away. Our youth group is being taken care of by Pastor Iban and he is doing a great job. We are going to in person meetings August 1 with the option of Zoom for those who are sick or those who do not feel comfortable venturing out just yet.

I continue to teach Wednesday nights and lead prayer, I am doing the “Baptist Biblical Distinctives”. This has been a tremendous blessing to be able to stay in contact with the brethren. In times past furloughs were almost a total disconnect from the things in Bolivia, but now we can still be part of the people’s lives.

One week before we left Bolivia we were able to purchase a lot for the future construction of the church. The Brethren quickly put a fence around and claimed it. In November we will start to do something with the property. Here in Bolivia if a piece of land sits idle, you can lose it to a squatter and if uncontested for 7 years it becomes the squatter’s legal property. Please pray with us that God would provide the funds in His time to build a building for the Believers here in San Lorenzo.

Concerning the political situation, the government seems to be more occupied about hunting down the opposition and putting them in jail than dealing with Covid. In Bolivia the hospitals have collapsed several times, Oxygen and medicines supplies have run out at times, and the black market has thrived. Currently 25% of the population is vaccinated and we have a 6% death rate from Covid. Praise the Lord our little church family has lost no one. However, we have had several hospitalized with the virus, and God has brought them through. That is why we held off in going to in-person services for one more month. Praise God we were able to help with the cost of their treatment.

I wrote in the last update that I was to have 2 surgeries in the USA. On July 7, I had my hand surgery and it went well. I cannot use it for another month and will have 50% of my strength back in Sept. My surgery for the fusion of my neck will take place in early September. Sheila has some diagnostical tests planned for her digestive system on July 29, so please keep her in prayer also.

Praises: That the church in Bolivia will be able to meet in person. The purchase of the land for the church.

Prayer Requests: For all of our medical concerns with me and Sheila. For the physical healing from my surgery. The health crisis in Bolivia, that our church family would be protected. For God’s provision in funding for the church building.

Thank you for your prayers and always 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