



Oct 4, 2018

Dear Prayer Partners and Family: Greetings from San Lorenzo, Bolivia. Spring is here in Bolivia and with it came the first rains and now there is green everywhere, a truly wonderful promise, and witness of God. *"Nevertheless he left not himself without witness, in that he did good, and gave us rain from heaven, and fruitful seasons, filling our hearts with food and gladness."* Acts 14:17

Please forgive me for enjoying our Spring while you enter into winter. I remember the 20 winters we spent in Alaska, they were long and cold but they were full of their own beauty, I do miss them at times. I hope we never forget that every season is a witness to the faithfulness of our Lord.

The weather is not the only thing that is warming up in Bolivia, the political climate is as well. The opposition parties to the current president are making their moves while the current president continues to work things to his favor, so he can stay in power longer than the Bolivian constitution allows. This is bringing instability to the country in the forms of blockades and strikes. On Oct. 5 our local state government was on strike with blockades. Then on Oct. 8 there is a planned blockade and then on Oct. 10 a national strike is planned for the whole country. The Oct. 10 strike is to try and persuade the president to obey the constitution and pull out of the race for president.

As I write this letter I am in Cochabama, Bolivia where we just had our meeting with the Bolivian Mission that represents us in Bolivia. The mission informed of us of some good news, in one political aspect. There have been several large marches by Evangelical Christians across Bolivia in response to the governments heavy handed approach to the Evangelical churches. As a result of these marches the govt. for the moment, has lightened their hand against Christians and is recognizing them as a substantial number of possible votes.

Ministry wise things have been busy. We had suspended the kids club for a while and hope to restart it after the first of the year. Sheila taught at a ladies retreat in Tarija and 6 ladies from our church were able to attend. Sheila has been asked to teach 2 classes to the ladies at another Baptist church on Oct. 12th and 13th. On Sept. 21-23 our youth were invited to a youth conference where our U.S.A. Mission Director, Dr. Lance Rader preached. We took 10 young people and listened to some great messages. We are currently preparing for our upcoming 11th Church Anniversary on Nov. 9-11. Our focus will be missions.

Some of the best news we have for you concerns a couple that we have been praying for. After 8 years Jean Paul called me up and said, "pastor can we talk?" Well, Jean Paul and Fatima came to our house and accepted the Lord as their Savior that evening. The other good news is we are out growing our current meeting room. It's really cramped on the days when everybody shows up, therefore we talked with the owner and worked out a deal to enclose the patio which is 3 times the size of our meeting room now. This last week, 3 seminary students came down from Vallegrande on a one-way 20hr. bus ride to help the Brethren work on this project. We will be in the new meeting area for our anniversary. We have also started a once a month, couples meeting to minister to married couples and on another weekend, we have a once a month, men's meeting. The assistance to these two new meetings have been favorable. On another very good note, Alba the young lady who was in the tragic accident 2 years ago made an appearance in church the other day and made the rounds asking people for forgiveness.

A serious issue that we would like you to pray for concerns a young man who is the son of Daisy and Aldo, a couple who attends our church. David has gotten himself in a lot of trouble, as a result of his drug abuse. This last month he was arrested for aggravated assault and robbery. While he was in jail he hanged himself and almost succeeded in killing himself. As I write he is on his way to start his 3rd attempt at rehabilitation. Sadly, he has rejected our Savior several times and our attempts to reach out to him.

**Prayer Requests:** Please pray for Robert as he ministers to the youth; the new ministries, for Sheila as she teaches the ladies, for our anniversary, the enlarging of our meeting area, and for David and his parents Aldo and Daisy. **Praises:** Salvation of Jean Paul and Fatima, the softened heart of Alba, and the return of our mail service.

*For His Glory, Matt. 5:16*

*Rick & Sheila Ackerman*

**Sending Church**

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**Mission Agency (Support)**

Baptist Pioneer Mission  
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It has occurred to me that I have never sent pictures of the van we use for ministry. Thank you, to all who have prayed for God's provision in this area and thank you to all who have contributed. The van has been used on several occasions and it is an asset to the ministry here in Bolivia.

Thank you for your generosity and may God bless you all for helping meet this need.

For His Glory, Rick and Sheila Ackerman

