



RICK AND SHEILA ACKERMAN
MINISTERING IN BOLIVIA

26 of December 2023

Dear Prayer Partners and Friends,

A Very Merry Christmas to you all and may the New Year be full of Blessings. The Greatest Blessing, we have is our Savior. Only God knows on what day Jesus was born, the exact day does not matter to me, but the fact that God became flesh, lived a sinless life, to be the perfect sacrifice that would pay for our sins is the most important thing. And the celebration of Jesus's life should not be regulated to one day a year but celebrated every day.

We returned to Bolivia at the end of October, after my doctor released me and gave an ok for my travel, but with restrictions. No lifting anything over 10 pounds. Try traveling with 4 suitcases at 50 lbs and 2 Carry on's and 2 personal bags. Sheila was a real blessing, and we relied more on others who could help. My surgery went well, and the recovery is going well. I was not sure until just a week ago, when finally, everything started to feel a lot better. My doctor over a recent telehealth meeting said things looked good and would continue to improve. I also just received great news that the insurance company paid 98% of the cost of my surgery. A Tremendous relief!

When we got home, the house needed a lot of work, as unwanted guests moved in during our 6-month absence, spiders, and dust. The ministry was in good hands while we were gone, however after arriving many came to us seeking counsel. It seems they did not want to go to the in-term pastor with these things but saved them for me and Sheila. I took this as a sign of their trust in us.

Sandro did a great job leading the church in my absence, and Francisco a pastor friend did a great job in filling the pulpit. We made a few changes in the ministry, which have been favorably received. We used to do a meeting for the youth every Saturday evening, but the Lord moved me to do something different. The 1st Saturday is for the ladies, 2nd is for the Youth, 3rd for the Couples, 4th for the Men, and when there is a 5th it is for the elderly Brothers and Sisters. The youth are encouraged to attend adult meetings that correspond to them, girls to the ladies and boys to the men. This idea was well received. We tried to start in December and got the first two meetings in, but I forgot about all the graduations and end of school year reports and exams the teachers and students had to do. So, we had to postpone the last two meetings and will start again in January. We are working through the discipleship book, Becoming a True Christian on Wednesday nights.

We attended 4 high school graduations this year to attend in different schools, just before Christmas. High School Graduations here are a big deal and take up at least 4 -6 hours of a day if you attend all the events. Then we celebrated the Birth and life of our Savior on Sunday, with a service in the morning and a candlelight service in the evening at 7 pm. It was a beautiful service on a very hot day, upper 90's with 60% humidity. We had great participation and 6 visitors.

On January 2-6 we have 10 young people going to youth camp, I have also been asked to preach a session. It is such a great topic this year. "God's Original Design". The subject is God's Original Design for man and woman. Their creation, roles, and purpose. Such a needed teaching in a world that rejects God's original design. It is sad I must report that the US Embassy in Bolivia feels the necessity to push the LBGTQ+ agenda in Bolivia. And this push is probably not isolated to Bolivia. Therefore, the leaders of camp decided "God's Original Design" would be the camp topic this year.

Please pray for: Ricks recuperation, Sheila's stomach problem, it came back ☹️, the youth camp January 2-6.

Praise: Ricks progress in healing, and the opportunity to serve in Bolivia, and for your faithfulness to this ministry.

We pray that the Lord is blessing the work He has for you, as He is ours.

Thank you for your continued prayers and financial support. Also please note the email change!

For His Glory, Rick & Sheila Ackerman

Sending Church

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Mission Agency (Support)

Baptist Pioneer Mission
P.O. Box 5114, Kincheloe, MI. 49788
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The link for making online donations is; <https://secure.subsplash.com/ui/access/NX87WD/>

If you desire to give, please put "Ackerman" in the memo section of the online gift.