



Nov. 1, 2019

Dear Prayer Partners and Family: Greetings from Bolivia.

Yes, we made it back to Bolivia after a 1 month medical and personal furlough which was no easy undertaking. God's Hand was definitely upon our journey. You may not have heard anything at all about what is happening here as the mainstream media is more consumed with other things, but things in Latin America are falling apart because the people are reacting to many different wrongs. I know these countries have unrest; Ecuador, Nicaragua, Peru, Chile, Argentina, Venezuela, and Bolivia. I may not know what is the reason for the riots in most of the countries but I do know why the Bolivian people are rioting. They do not want to lose their freedom and come under a dictatorship like Venezuela did.

Let's see if I can explain this quickly. Bolivia had an election on Oct 20. The current president was running for his fourth 5-year term, when the Constitution allowed only two 5- year terms. The President manipulated the Supreme court to allow him to be a candidate on the 2019 ballot. The election results were being shared with the people minute by minute and if the trend continued there would be a runoff in December. However, all of a sudden, the order was given by the govt. at 8pm election day to stop sharing the results and then after 24hrs the president was declared the winner by the needed margin. The people screamed fraud and took to the streets in protest. The president did not send in the military, but the police, much of the police force sided with the people so he sent in his support base armed with sticks and dynamite to antagonize and confront the opposition. The president also said his people would block the cities and starve the opposition into accepting the results. Needless to say, many cities in Bolivia have turned into battle zones with many blockades. We are on day 10 of the blockades. This is no record, as there have been blockades for up to a month. The record is this, that the whole country is paralyzed.

We arrived in Bolivia when all of this was developing and the roads had been blocked, but the violence had not started yet. We give thanks to the Lord for getting us safely home. He changed flights, opened blockades for us, and sent friends to receive us at the airport so that we could be safely home in the countryside. We have had opportunities to stock up on supplies, therefore we are good and we are safe. On Sunday we had a wonderful service and Wednesday night we had an amazing prayer service.

The government does not want to relinquish power and more than half the people do not want him in power. The govt. has agreed to a recount of ballots by an untrusted organization, but the majority rejects this and say the president must be taken out of office and new elections held.

Alvaro and Rocio did a great job at keeping the ministry going, we found our house and the ministry in good shape. The people seemed to be genuinely pleased that we were back. We as a church are joining with many other Bolivian Believers in prayer for Bolivia. We are not joining with them physically, but we as a church are calling out to God for intervention and the forgiveness of our sins, because a lot is at stake here, including suppression of all religions other than the worship of Mother Earth and a very pagan form of Catholicism.

The medical need of Brother Armando still stands but with the blockades it cannot be done. When things return to relatively normal he will have the pacemaker surgery done. If you can help in any way, please send your offering to Baptist Pioneer Mission and please designate your offering for Pacemaker in care of Missionary Rick Ackerman.

Prayer Requests: Please pray that God would supply for Brother Armando; for a resolution to the crisis here in Bolivia; For a great harvest during this time; for the peace of Bolivia and safety for the missionaries and believers here.

Praises: God's Hand in getting us safely home. God's goodness and mercy are endless!

For His Glory, Matt. 5:16

Rick & Sheila Ackerman

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