



August 29, 2019

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

We pray that this update finds you all doing well. We apologize for the length of time between updates. Sheila and I are doing well, we have had some ups and downs with sickness, but as of this writing we are doing well.

I am sure by now most of you have seen the headlines, The Amazon is burning! NASA will say not burning more than any other year based on their data, which is several weeks old. But I believe the end of the year studies will prove that indeed the Amazon has burned more than usual. There is a logical reason for this increase. The president of Bolivia signed a law that the farmers in that area could increase their land clearing from 5 to 20 Hectors, quadrupling the amount of land that can be cleared by slash and burn techniques. Coupled with this there has been an increase of the president's base from the Andes moving into these lowland areas and squatting on lands that are considered national parks, and or, that belong to the low land Indian tribes. In my opinion this is a conquest by Highland Andes indigenous people over the lowland indigenous people. The Highland Andes indigenous make up 90% of indigenous population<sup>1</sup>, and they tried this conquest starting in the 1400's but lowland diseases forced them to retreat. However now with a president who is a descendent of the Highland Indians and who has been crowned the High Priest of the Inca nation this conquest is now being made possible. This will surely make an interesting election this year on Oct 20. As you pray for America, please pray for Bolivia as it is very divided and unstable.

The couple's retreat on June 20th and 21<sup>st</sup> was a huge success. We had 20 Christian couples attend and learn about how to raise godly children. Thank you for your prayers. We had a follow up meeting a week later with all of the couples.

On August 24 our youth group was invited to a village church for a youth activity with 3 other churches. It was a Christian talent night and our group came in 2<sup>nd</sup> place. The criteria for judging was stricter than I have ever seen before. Actually, it was a blessing because an important teaching moment came from it. One of the other groups did a drama that was, let's just say "very worldly" and very oppressing. The judge stood up at the end to give the awards and said, "for that last drama the team would be awarded a 0 in all categories." Then he began to explain with compassion and conviction how Christians should present themselves in order to honor our Savior Jesus Christ. The judge later told me that some of the young people from that team came to him and thanked him for his words and that they really had no guidance in what they should present. What a lesson we have in this, we should never assume that the young people know how to honor God, they need to be instructed and taught.

**Prayer Requests:** Please pray for the commitment and faithfulness of the believers unto God. These last 3 months we have seen an increase of attacks on the Brethren and many instead of turning towards God, they have turned their backs on Him. One Scripture that comes to mind that sums up how I feel is, Psalms 126:5 *They that sow in tears shall reap in joy.* Sowing is not just throwing out the word and walking off, it involves working in the fields. Therefore, the tears are not just from a heart of compassion and praying for people to accept God's Word and be saved, but it is also the tears that one sheds as you see people make grave mistakes in their lives that lead them away from Christ and into danger. Please pray that God would raise up Godly men that would be qualified to preach and teach; Wisdom for us as we counsel families in crisis; Encouragement

**Praises:** Our discipleships with Alvaro and Rocio continue, and they are being very faithful to study an advanced discipleship with us every Tuesday night; new believers since last update Rosa and Antonia.

**For His Glory, Matt. 5:16**

**Rick & Sheila Ackerman**

<sup>1</sup> [www.iwgia.org/en/](http://www.iwgia.org/en/)

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