



Jan. 22, 2018

Dear Prayer Partners and Family: Lots of things have happened in the last 3 months to inform you about, some good and some bad.

When we got to San Lorenzo we planned and executed the church's 10-year anniversary on Nov. 10-12. It was a great time with the church family. Our guest preacher was Pastor Robert Paniagua a young man who graduated from the Bible Institute in Vallegrande Bolivia. There was lots of special music by the youth group. Pastor Santos and Elizabeth had done a great job with them, it was truly a blessing.

After the Anniversary Pastor Santos and Elizabeth moved on to other ministry opportunities. Pastor Robert went back to his home church with an invitation from us to come and join us in the ministry. We all prayed for 2 weeks and his answer was, YES! So, Pastor Robert came alongside us on Dec 18, 2017. He is truly a blessing, he is young, a conservative, a heart to serve the Lord, humble, and a good Bible teacher. His primary responsibilities are the youth, and he also teaches piano and guitar. He also helps us with the Kids Club on Saturdays.

Speaking of the Kids Club; with Robert's help, we decided to do it every Saturday. The kids are happy about that, no more wondering what Saturdays of the month they should come. It's every Saturday.

We want to say a big thank you to all of you who have prayed about and donated to our vehicle fund. We have purchased a 15-passenger van. Someone asked us why we did not look at the Chinese van Foton as they had good reviews. We decided ok we will research them and we found out that they were a top of the line manufacturer in China. They have a Toyota motor and drive train. The total cost was \$18,000 for a 2018 model, in comparison a Toyota that was 10 years old sells for \$25,000. We ended up getting \$14,000 in donations and borrowed \$4,000. So, if someone wants to help, we would greatly appreciate it. We were supposed to take possession of it last week, but the country has been in turmoil for 4 weeks now because of a new penal code the government wants to introduce. Therefore, getting the paperwork done for the van has been impossible. We should get it all done this week and have the van in possession soon.

The new penal code has caused protests, blockades, and at times a complete shutdown of the commerce. The new code affected many sectors of the population for the worse. One example is that doctors were to go to jail upon a formal complaint of negligence, then an investigation would follow and if they were innocent they would be released. Remember justice comes slowly here if even at all. Concerning us Evangelicals, if we recruited (evangelized) or transported anybody to a religious service we were considered human traffickers and could go to prison for 7-10 years. So, for 4 weeks the people have been in blockades demanding the nullifying of this new law and Christians have been praying. Well it has worked God has answered and the president said he would nullify the new penal code. But this only meets half the demands of the people. The other demand was that the president respects the constitution and the vote of the people when they said no to a 3rd term in 2017. The current constitution limits the president to 2 consecutive 5 year terms, but the high court decided later in 2017 he could run as many times as he wanted.

Therefore, it appears the marches and blockades will continue until the president withdraws his name from the 2020 ballot.

Having saved the best news for last, I am pleased to announce the salvation of Maritza (30yrs) and her Grandfather Jaime (82yrs) what a blessing it was to lead these two into a personal relationship with Jesus Christ our Lord and Savior.

**Prayer Requests:** Please pray for Robert as he ministers to the youth; for Sandro, his children and their mother Maria Elena;

**Praises:** Robert's help; For the new vehicle; the nullifying of the new penal code; the salvation of Maritza and her Grandfather Jaime.

*For His Glory, Matt. 5:16*

*Rick & Sheila Ackerman*

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