



March 16, 2017

Dear Prayer Partners and Family: We pray this update finds you all well and enjoying your life in Christ. The rains of Summer/Fall have finally arrived here in Bolivia after a long dry spell. At times the rain can affect us in a way that makes it impossible to get to church or come home. This year this has happened twice, once in February we had to cancel our Youth night because of a torrential downpour that flooded some of San Lorenzo, and caused the river to rise preventing us from leaving home. The church itself was not affected, but several homes of members were flooded, without serious damage. Then, last night we were at Prayer Time and Bible Study, and only Daysi and Aldo showed up. We had our service and it began to rain hard, and I mean very hard. I was very concerned because we have to cross 1 big dry creek and 3 small dry creeks to get home. But if it rains hard those dry creeks can become raging especially the big one that is 100 feet across. So I was in a hurry to get out of there, but Daysi and Aldo were lingering around and had some important things to discuss, like their marriage, Aldo's recent fall, and their children. I had to decide, stay and listen with an open heart or rush off so I could get home before the creeks rose? "Hey Rick you're a missionary, choose the better things", I heard that voice in the back of my mind say. I chose to stay, and we talked for a good hour. We were unable to get home that night because the creek did rise, but that's ok, like Martha we chose the better thing. The good news is Aldo and Daysi have agreed to meet with us for more counseling and discipleships. As a matter of fact we meet with them Thursday night the 16<sup>th</sup>. Please pray for them to be committed, as we have been encouraging them for 4 years to finish this 16-lesson discipleship. Aldo and Daysi are in a vicious cycle, and it is all because they do not commit whole-heartedly to the Lord. I remember when I was the same way in my earlier years, only looking to the Lord when it was convenient, or in times of trouble. But if we only draw close to the Lord in times of trouble, can you guess what God, who desires our fellowship, will allow our lives, and a lot of it? Troubles; yes you guessed it.

We had a wonderful time at the house in our escape of the evil Fiesta of Carnaval. The brothers and sisters in Christ spent the whole day here at the house. We had games, a barbeque, and a service that evening. It was a great day of fellowship. But sadly that enemy Satan has been very busy during this time. We have 4 out of 6 marriages that are struggling in the church, and 3 brothers in Christ that have fallen off the wagon. I am very burdened to do something for these marriages that will help them. However our time is short in Bolivia before we leave on furlough for 5 months. Therefore an official marriage retreat will have to be in Nov. So please pray for wisdom for us as we reach out to them and for the restoration of these marriages and these two brothers.

The 19<sup>th</sup> of March is Fathers Day in Bolivia, and we plan on having a dinner on Saturday night the 18<sup>th</sup>. The youth group has planned this and we have put a lot of work into making it a very special night. The theme is China, we made Chinese lanterns, hats, and mustaches, and on Saturday after kids club we will begin setting up and cooking the Sweet and Sour Pork. Please pray for this outreach and the preaching on "Our Righteousness in Christ" using the Chinese character for Righteousness, which is made by combining 3 characters, the character for Lamb above, and below the two characters for hand and knife. Interesting! A Chinese character over 4000 years old, of a hand with a knife under the Lamb!

Also two changes which are important to note. Our Stateside personal mailing address is; Rick and Sheila Ackerman 3916 N. Potsdam Ave. PNB 2470, Sioux Falls South Dakota 57104-7048  
The second change is: Our new Website, please visit us at [www.ackermantobolivia.com](http://www.ackermantobolivia.com)

**Prayer Requests:** Please pray for the Kids Club; Sunday school; the Youth group; a van for transportation; co-laborers; the 4 couples having problems, the 3 men who need to be restored to fellowship, The Fathers Day Outreach". **Praises:** all churches are scheduled for meetings except one for our furlough; and for your prayers. *For His Glory, Matt. 5:16* *Rick & Sheila Ackerman*

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**Mission Agency (Support)**

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