



May 10, 2020

Hello Prayer Partners, I had written last time that our world has been turned upside down because of the Coronavirus. Well it is still upside down 45 days later. As I write Bolivia is in day 51 of total quarantine and we have 20 more to go. The Bolivian government has extended the quarantine until May 30. The country has 2437 confirmed cases and 114 deaths.

Just a reminder, a total quarantine in Bolivia is isolating at home, only adults can go out to buy groceries once a week for 6 hours. That day is determined by the last number of your Id. No public transportation, no private transportation, only emergency vehicles and commercial and grocery transport. Businesses are being crushed and people are very concerned.

In all of this we say Thank you Lord for giving us the opportunity to minister with what we have and continuing to supply more than we need. Our God is truly amazing!

The response by our supporters has been overwhelming, we are so thankful for all who are praying and for those who have sent in donations to help with the need. We can tell you are praying because of the doors that have opened and of the opportunities we have been given.

We did get verbal permission from 2 police chiefs, to be out and about delivering food bags, we asked for written but none of them wanted to stick their necks out that far. However so far, we have had no problems when we have been stopped by the police, it has been intimidating none the less as we do live in a country where the people do not have many rights, as you can see by the lockdown rules. But we praise the Lord for the favor with the police we have received.

With the donations that have been coming in, we have been purchasing food that does not need refrigeration in bulk. Then as a church we bag the food up in bags and each family will get 2 heavy supermarket plastic bags of food stuffs. We have tried to be wise in our distribution as we can easily create an unwanted situation by handing out items to a crowd then running out. Besides not all who stand in these lines are truly needy. Therefore, the first time we asked the police for a list of needy families, they obliged, then we asked each adult member of our church to come up with a list of at least 6 needy families they knew. Through the members we were able to give to 100 families. Then this last time we had asked the leaders of the small communities for a list of those with the most need. For almost every family we have personally visited their home and personally given them supplies they so desperately needed. By Wednesday of this coming week we will have delivered to 255 families in several communities and 15 bags of appreciation to the local police.

We have been blessed in many ways as we have given, but others have given to us in their own ways. Granted there are many who have received the gift with thankfulness, then a few who receive it and walk off, and a few who have turned their back and walked off after hearing we were Baptists. Finally, there are those who cry tears of joy because someone thought of them. These are the same responses we get when we share the Gospel of Christ with others. Those who receive it with joy give us the greatest joy. Please pray for salvation for all of those receiving the bags of food, because they also receive the Word of God.

Our work in this area of food distribution will continue for the rest of the month and possibly into June. However, the follow ups on those who showed an interest in the Word of God, we pray will go well into the future. Sadly, with a total quarantine it makes it impossible to visit these families for a Bible Study or to meet at church. For now, I am sending devotions every morning via WhatsApp and a full sermon on Sunday morning.

Praises: God's continued favor on us and the opportunity to serve Him

Prayers Requests: Our health, (we have gotten worn down a few times this last month), and for the Word of God to find its way into the hearts of those who receive it; and wisdom.

Thank you for your prayers and your financial support.

For His Glory, Matt. 5:16
Rick & Sheila Ackerman

