



June 15, 2018

Dear Prayer Partners and Family: Greetings from Bolivia.

I must apologize for the time has slipped away from us again and this update is later than what I wanted it to be.

On March 30 and 31 we had a special conference for married couples. By faith we rented 20 rooms and a meeting room at a hotel in the city of Tarija. Then we invited couples to come and spend the night, without children, and listen to the teachings. We had 19 couples in attendance and everybody went away encouraged and ready to work on their marriages. In Bolivia 71% of marriages end in divorce, and that is if they marry at all. This is why we want to continue with a couple's study on God's plan for marriage.

In April Sheila had her annual sleep over for the young ladies and did some teaching concerning purity. She had at least a dozen girls for the teaching and about 8 that stayed the night. Also, we had a special outreach to the children on Bolivian Children's day. In April, there was a new person added to the role up yonder as Franz Valdez accepted the Lord as his Savior and was baptized.

From January to May we experimented and had the kids club every Saturday to see if the attendance would improve. But because of the drinking parties during Carnival and Easter, coupled with the fact that the local priest advised the parents that San Lorenzo was Catholic and they should not permit their children to attend our kid's club, the sharp drop in attendance still happened.

In May, we celebrated the children's faithfulness in attendance for the kid's club and Sunday School with our annual Kids Carnival. This is where the kids could take the points they earned throughout the year from Bible memorization and attendance and use them in exchange for prizes, treats or to play games. They loved it and it was a fun time for all, but the most faithful definitely had more points to spend!

On May 15 – to June 12 Sheila and I traveled to the USA for Rick's mom and dad's 60th Wedding Anniversary. My parent's health is failing and we felt that this was an important time to go. We praise the Lord that He made it possible for us to be there. While we were there we were able to visit at least 2 of our children and attend a family reunion that Sheila's mother organized. It was the first time she and all of her children were together in over 38 years! I also had the opportunity to preach and present our ministry in Bolivia at a local church. Our last week and a half was one of the toughest I have experienced. My mom who has COPD was put into the hospital with double pneumonia and treated with a trial drug for 7 days, to kill the recurring bacteria. The treatment worked, but had its unpleasant side effects. During my mom's hospitalization, we watched my dad's Alzheimer's go from bad to worse. It seems without the stability of my mom and her care for him in the home he was greatly affected. Between me and my sisters we took care of him. And when my mom was released Sheila and I stayed with them and cared for them for 5 days until we flew back to Bolivia. My sisters are there now helping in the care of our parents, and along with my mom they have some very tough decisions to make.

So now we are back in Bolivia and planning what we are going to do in the ministry here. We will make some changes to the kid's club, I will start a men's ministry to the men of the church once a month. We will start a couple's ministry once a month as follow up to the conference. There is a possibility of taking a couple of men to a new ministry in the city for recovering alcoholics every Friday night. This is the ministry of Reformers Unanimous I tried to start in San Lorenzo but it never took off. However, I turned over the material to some friends in the city and helped them get started before we left for the states.

Please do not send anything to us in Bolivia snail mail, the post office in Bolivia is still unreliable.

Prayer Requests: Please pray for Robert as he ministers to the youth; for the new ministries, for the health of my parents and wisdom for my mom and sisters. **Praises:** Our safe return to Bolivia, Sheila's health has improved, and the Salvation of Franz Valdez

For His Glory, Matt. 5:16

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