



RICK AND SHEILA ACKERMAN MINISTERING IN BOLIVIA

February 10, 2021

Greetings Prayer Partners, and friends.

Just wanted to write an update informing all of you that we made it back to Bolivia safely. It was a tough trip, first it's always hard to say good bye to loved ones, 2nd international travel always is stressful in so many ways. This time we did no overnight layovers to recuperate, so we were either on a plane or in an airport for 26 hrs. Needless to say, we were very tired and sore after the trip. However, we would like to Praise the Lord, that all connections were met and immigrations in Bolivia did not hassle us, like times before.

When we got home we found all was in good order with the house and our 2 dogs. We had hired two young teenagers, Alex Miller and Oriana from our church to feed our two furry friends and to take care of the yard, they did a good job. Alex and Oriana are brother and sister and the children of Brother Sandro and Maria Elena, of whom you have prayed for in years past. We have been mentoring Alex and Oriana this last year, with their parent's permission. The Church was also found to be doing good and was well taken care of by Brother Sandro who kept things going and Brother Rider who drove the church van to pick up people in the community of Sella. Brother Sandro said that there was no drop in attendance while we were gone, I'm very thankful for that, as it shows faithfulness and growth in the church. Brother Francisco did a great job preaching in my absence and his wife Lily taught the little ones in Sheila's absence.

The days before our arrival in Bolivia, Bolivia was starting to peak in the second wave of Covid; therefore, we were concerned about a total shutdown again, but praise the Lord that did not happen. They did suspend all election rallies, church meetings, and spectators at sporting events. Also, if there was ever a good time for the river we live on to take out the approach to the bridge that separate's our house from the church, this was it. The repair to the bridge will take about a month and will be done at the end of February, the same time the government plans to lift the restrictions on meetings. What a blessing!!

Sheila and I both did a voluntary quarantine for a week just in case we caught some bug while traveling, thankfully all is well. We are doing meetings on zoom and last Sunday had the best participation we have ever had. We are doing some visiting of church members but we still have to be careful as many of our church people have family members who are recuperating from Covid and they have been taking care of them.

The year 2021 for us will be another challenge, as my doctors in the States once again reiterated my need for 3 surgeries. One surgery is on my nose, so I can breathe again through it, the other is on my hand, I guess 20 years of chainsaw use in Alaska finally caught up with me. The third is a spinal fusion on my neck. Interestingly the hand surgery is more complicated than the neck, and requires a longer healing time. These surgeries are being planned for July of this year.

Praises: For God's provision of godly men and women to keep the ministry going in our absence, and His getting us back to Bolivia safely. Also praise the Lord, that Brother Miguel who is 90 is doing better, still bed ridden, but better.

Prayer Requests: For wisdom for Sheila and I, for protection of the church family from the virus.

Thank you for your prayers and a great big thank you for your financial support of this ministry.

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