



Nov 20, 2016

Dear Prayer Partners and Family:

It started like any other Sunday. I went to church to share the Word of God at 9:30. Then enters Alba 9 years old. She was really late arriving at 9:45, you say, really late? Yes, she is usually there at 8:30 waiting for us. She is fruit from the Kids Club. Her excuse was that her parents took her to a drinking party last night and she did not get home till 6am so she went to bed and got up 3hrs later and walked the 1/2 mile to church alone. Wow, how many of us make petty excuses not to come to church? We need more in church with the faithfulness of Alba.

Then on the way home from church we were crossing the river, it is low today, and we encountered little Armando, 12 years old. His father died a few years back now he is the man of the house. He does come to the Kids Club also when he can. Well today he was hauling logs twice the size of him across the river to the other side because he could not push his wheelbarrow through the current and over the rocks. You see he had probably 4 wheel barrels of wood. We doubled back in the pickup truck and asked him if we could help him and he said with a big grin, "yes pastor!" Another time a couple of weeks ago I saw him hauling a wheel barrel full of alfalfa he had cut by hand from up river to his home across the river, a journey of about a MILE. He stopped in front of our house to rest, I asked him if he needed help he said no. But after seeing this 4 foot 12 year old struggling with a load twice as heavy as him, I hopped in the truck and gave him a ride. He is always thankful, and he says, "thank you pastor." How many of us have said, "but, "I do not feel like it, its too hard" and How many of us forget to say Thank you? We could learn from Little Armando.

On our return across the river we encountered Bernadina, 8 years old and her two siblings, Antolyn 7 y and Bilmar 3. They were headed up river to dig potatoes. They usually come to kids club but they could not come yesterday because they were in the field digging potatoes with their family. Bernadina is also in charge of the family's flock of goats. She can be seen with them often and with her baby brother of 4 months slung in a blanket over her back. Well today was about a ¾- mile walk up river. That is a long way for a 3 year old, so they asked for a ride and we gave it to them even though we had to go out of our way. These kids have such hard lives. Bernadina always has a smile. Lord I sure wish I could radiate such Joy, even when life is more difficult than it should be. It should be easy for us as Christians to find joy because we know the Giver of Joy and Peace. Why is it so many of us are without it? Maybe we need that faith of child.

What's happening in church? We celebrated our 9th anniversary on Nov. 11-13. The theme was Faithfulness; on Sat. night we had about 60 in attendance. The preaching was good and there were some decisions to be more faithful to serve in the church. A month before the anniversary Daysi came forward with conviction to teach Sunday school for 6 - 12 year olds, this allowed Sheila to take the nursery. It was working out so great. Then during the anniversary Daysi and her husband Aldo said they wanted to serve God more. Then on Sunday we were notified by them they would be backing out of their commitments of Kids Club and Sunday school. Wow, what a blow to our hearts! The reason was because of their 2.5 year old Sarai. Sarai throws a temper tantrum in church every time we start to pray or worship. We have given counsel to the family concerning this and even started the nursery for this reason. My heart goes out to this family, for I know the consequences of the lack of discipline in a child's life and for telling God you will serve Him and then backing out.

Prayer Requests: Please pray the Kids Club; Sunday School; Aldo and Daysi to make right decisions; that Alba would return to the church; co-laborers. **Praises:** An awesome anniversary; the growth of the Kids Club; the re-starting of the youth group; the sack of fresh dug potatoes from Bernadina's family; and for your prayers.

For His Glory, Matt. 5:16

Rick & Sheila Ackerman

Sending Church

Mt. View Baptist Church
Copper Center, AK 99573
(907)-822-5262

Mission Agency (Support)

Baptist Pioneer Mission
P.O. Box 5114
Kincheloe, MI. 49788
(906)-495-5203
www.baptistpioneermission.org

Field Address

Rick & Sheila Ackerman
Casilla #490
Tarija, Bolivia
South America
rickyack@icloud.com