



Jan 30, 2017

Dear Prayer Partners and Family: Thank you to all of you who have sent Christmas cards, and or an offering. We do appreciate your kindness and thoughtfulness to us.

We had our Christmas service and it was well attended. The kids did a wonderful job in their drama; there was lots of participation from the Brothers and Sisters in the form of song specials and in serving the meal afterwards. It was a great time celebrating the Birth of Christ. Following Christmas we prepared for the youth camp. Yes youth camp! It has been at least 4 years since we had an official youth ministry. 4 years ago the devil successfully attacked this ministry and 90% of the youth left. I will not go into much detail, but we had a young man who professed Christ fall hard into sin. A very anti Evangelical and prominent professor from the high school used the opportunity to berate him and the church for months in front of his classmates. This caused the young people who were not grounded in the Lord to flee from the church. This was a severe blow to ministry. As we consider their flight we must remember that in this community there are no 2nd generation Christians, all in the church today are first generation Believers in a very Catholic community. Brothers and Sisters please remember our testimony is of the utmost importance, it can mean the difference between someone accepting the Lord as Savior or them turning their back on Him.

We have been praying for years for the right time to restart this ministry and we got the confirmation from the Lord to do so. We took 6 saved young people to camp this year and each one made a decision to serve the Lord. Rivaldo and Ronaldo wanted to be involved more so they are going to help with the music. Soledad came to us and said she wanted to teach Sunday school to the young children. Yuli and Alvaro are being faithful in helping with our Kids Club on Saturdays. Our group was invited on Saturday the 28 th of Jan. to attend a special service for youth in the city. I had confirmation of at least 7 going with us in my pickup, but when I went to pick them up we ended up with 14 young people!!! The message was the Gospel and it was direct and clear!! Praise the Lord!!! Many times we find ourselves carrying a group of brethren in our pickup, while it is legal for them to ride in back, it is not safe and I dislike doing it. Therefore we are praying for a Toyota Extended Van so we can safely carry them to special events and to their homes after the services.

Our Kids Club is doing well but attendance has dropped off because of Christmas vacations. What? Should there not be more? Here in Bolivia most kids in small communities do not get the luxury of playing during their vacation. They work, digging potatoes, planting by hand the corn in the field, cutting Alfalfa by hand for their family cow, and now the peaches are ripe so it is time to harvest. Is it child labor? Yes, and it is against the law, but the law does not stop the family from doing what they need to survive. Responsibility is good, but I do feel burdened for those children whose parents see them more as workers than precious children. This Friday Feb 3, Sheila is having a "Stay in the Castle Sleep Over" This is for the young girls and young women to come to our house for a sleep over. Of course Pastor Ricky will be gone, but Sheila will teach them from God's Word about purity and virtue.

As some of you already know we are making our plans to visit our supporters in the Lower 48 States. I have about half the meetings scheduled, but pastor if you have not heard from me please contact me at rickyack@icloud.com I have written every supporting church in the lower 48 states, but some of the e-mails have come back undeliverable. I have tried calling and have reached some, but the connection is bad at best, or I do not have service to make the call. Please drop me an e-mail if you have not heard from me.

Prayer Requests: Please pray the Kids Club; Sunday school; the Youth group; a van for transportation; co-laborers; God's Blessing on 2017 furlough and the "Stay in The Castle night". **Praises:** the restart of the youth group; the decisions of the young people to serve; 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 S. America (rickyack@icloud.com)