



OCT 8, 2019

Dear Prayer Partners and Family: Greetings from the USA.

Greetings from the USA, What? That may have taken you off guard. Back in March a friend said, "you need to check out airline prices they are super low". Curiosity got me, so I did, I found out that if I bought a ticket to leave on Sept 24 and return to Bolivia Oct 23 I could get it for half price. We prayed about it and thought we could get some doctor visits in, and visit our parents. As the time approached to leave we knew God in His wisdom had brought this to pass. It turns out my mother's health had worsened as well as my fathers Alzheimer's. It has been good to be able to be in their lives these couple of weeks. I believe my dad has perked up some and I can tell he enjoys the visits. I sure will miss them when we leave on the 23<sup>rd</sup>. Today we even get to visit Sheila's Mom and step dad who drove 1500 miles to visit us in the Midwest. At 85 years old this is a tremendous blessing to us, I do not know who is ministering more to whom, us to them or them to us. I guess I will just let the Lord work that out and enjoy it.

While we are gone Alvaro and Rocio are keeping the ministry going and a couple of good pastor friends are filling the pulpit the 3 Sundays we will be gone. There is a 4<sup>th</sup> Sunday but it falls on the day of the national election for the president and meetings are not allowed on that day. Time will tell if the elections actually happen, as the president runs for his 4<sup>th</sup> term while the Constitution limits presidential terms to two 5 year terms. In response the country plans a general strike on Oct 10, closing down the country till the current president steps down.

For our doctor visits. No change in our eye prescriptions, the urologist gave me some pills for a non-serious condition, the back doctor did not give me a clean bill of health but did not recommend any surgeries, and the hand doctor has tentatively scheduled a reconstruction surgery for my left thumb in 2020. It seems 20 years of chainsaw use in Alaska finally had its toll.

Speaking of medical care, Bolivia is in a crisis. The current govt made an election year promise of free medical care to all, on an already overwhelmed system. Our doctors in Tarija have been on strike on and off for several months, as they protest this extra burden without compensation and some other unfair laws that the govt. is trying to implement.

In the midst of all this we have a dear and faithful Brother in Christ who needs to have his pacemaker replaced. 10 years ago several of you helped him get his pacemaker. We would like to ask you to carefully pray about helping again. Brother Armando is 75 and is a poor farmer who still tries to farm his 10 acres. He makes just enough to survive. He has been able to visit the cardiologist in between their strikes and was hopeful that the new medical care for all would pay for it. Wrong, pacemakers are not covered, just like many other things are not covered. Since the pacemaker and surgery is not covered, Brother Armando has to raise 28,000 bolivianos, this is a little over \$4,000. The children of Armando are helping with the cost but they will still fall very short of what is needed. If you can help in any way, please send your offering to Baptist Pioneer Mission and please designate your offering for Pacemaker in care of Missionary Rick Ackerman.

**Prayer Requests:** Please pray for Alvaro as he leads church services in our absence, for peaceful elections, our Travels, and that God would supply for the need of Brother Armando. Also pray for our trip back to Bolivia and our up-coming church anniversary on November 7-9.

**Praises:** God's mercies and love towards us while we are yet sinners.

**For His Glory, Matt. 5:16**

**Rick & Sheila Ackerman**

**Sending Church**

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**Mission Agency (Support)**

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