## RICK AND SHEILA ACKERMAN MINISTERING IN BOLIVIA

3 of Sep. 2022

Dear Praying Churches and Friends,

thank you for your faithfulness in praying for us and thanks be to God who is supplying our needs.

There is much progress on the church property. All the rough work is done, now it is time for the finish work. That is not to say the finish work is easier, it is just more detailed. A pastor friend earlier this week asked me what we lacked in finishing phase 1. I gave him an estimate. As I wrote the above comment, "God who is supplying our needs", I got an email notification from my pastor friend mentioned above. I will not share his name or the church name, out of respect, but they know who they are. The email said His church's VBS kids raised a good amount money and the church wanted to add to that. It was a very large donation, we were not expecting. Brethren God does supply!! To that Pastor, the VBS kids, and Church Body I want to say THANK YOU VERY MUCH!!! Also, I know some of you have already given for this project this month, we also say thank you to you as well and also to our Bolivian brethren who have also contributed. As of the writing of this letter we now are very much closer to our goal, we still lack some but we are confident that God will supply.

Our trip to Icla was a blessing, we had some great fellowship with our missionary friends, and I was able to preach in their small church. Sheila also got to teach the ladies bible study. The Lord also gave us some great opportunities to share Christ.

Last week a young man came to our jobsite looking for work, but he came a little hung over. Our heart went out to him, so we gave him an opportunity. I chatted with him in order to get to know him better and he asked what I was in Bolivia for, well that opened a door for the Gospel. But I guess he heard enough because he never came back after lunch. His name is Omar. So sad to see young people destroying their lives, in this manner. Our new mayor is promoting the fiestas, which = drunkenness. He wants to rediscover the old ways and traditions. Some of the traditions are amoral, but many are an affront to our Lord. Every fiesta here is celebrated with the consumption of excess alcohol. So sad to see the young men and older men still heavily intoxicated still drinking in the morning, or passed out in the streets.

Our English Bible says about the 4th Commandment, "*Remember the sabbath day, to keep it holy*", the Spanish Catholic Bible says "*Keep the Fiesta*" I will say this, about Bolivian Catholics they like to keep their 4<sup>th</sup> commandment. Sadly, it destroys families and society.

On Saturday we had a dinner for the Senior Saints, because Friday was Senior Day here in Bolivia. We had 10 seniors from our church, we had a great time with them. We had some games, then a message, and then a meal. One 90 yr. old sister in Christ was giving a 75yr. brother in Christ a hard time about what he was like when he was 4. They both were born in this community, it was a lot of fun. We may start a senior club once a month for them. They are in favor of it !!! It is pretty crazy as we got our start in ministry in the late 90's when we had a Senior citizens outreach and now that we are seniors the Lord is leading us in that direction again. It's interesting how ministries change, once we had more youth than seniors now we have more seniors than youth. Our youth group took a big hit this year when several went off to college in another city.

We pray that the Lord is blessing the work He has for you, as He is ours. Thank you for your continued prayers and financial support these years.

In Christ alone, Rick & Sheila Ackerman

Prayer Requests:Wisdom for us, protection and provision for the construction, Omar, and the Senior ministry, and youthministry.Praises: Faithful support, progress on the construction.

Some photos to share and a Thank you for making this all possible:



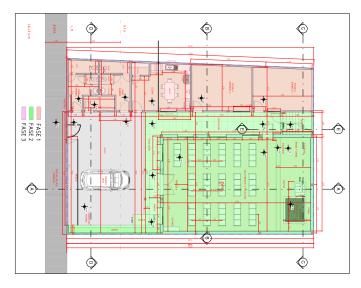
The Front of the building

The kitchen



Our Auditorium for now, future classrooms

The Senior Dinner and activity



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The link for making online donations is; <u>https://secure.subsplash.com/ui/access/NX87WD/</u> you desire to give, Please put "Ackerman" or Ackerman/Building Project in the memo section of the online gift