



The Ackerman Family

Missionaries to Bolivia

January 20, 09

"O LORD, thou art my God; I will exalt thee, I will praise thy name; for thou hast done wonderful things; thy counsels of old are faithfulness and truth." Isaiah 25:1

Dear Family, Friends and Prayer Partners, First of all; thank you, thank you, thank you, for the cards, Christmas gifts and your prayers for this ministry!

God has done some pretty exciting things here in San Lorenzo in 2008 and we are looking forward to what He is going to do in this coming year. As I look back at the beginning of 2008 we had just moved to San Lorenzo and we were alone in our services here. Last night as I was in the pulpit I looked out and counted 13 besides our own family. What a blessing and encouragement!! We had our first baptism last Sunday, a young man named Jamil. Please pray that the others who attend will come under conviction to follow him in believer's baptism.

We also had the opportunity to take 11 youth from San Lorenzo and help out with a youth camp the 12th – 16th of January. The theme of the camp was "Leave your Footprint." Praise the Lord Marilyn and Cecilia were able to go also. These are two of the girls who have encountered stiff opposition from their families. There were at least 120 campers who were able to attend morning devotions. Then in the am and pm there were worship and preaching services. Of course there were lots of games, some of which were very challenging. I can say the staff did a fine job of keeping the youth occupied with things to do. I am pleased to announce that the Lord worked in many young hearts this past week to make decisions to accept Christ and even more who had a desire to recommit their lives to the Lord and serve Him.

In the last letter I told you about a young man named Alex who got saved during the November meetings. We were doing the discipleship courses and then he failed to show up. I had been trying to locate him with no success. Then last week one of the pastors in Tarija brought a group of youth to the camp and he said to me, "I had a young man and his wife visit the church on Sunday and they said he had been going to the church in San Lorenzo with Pastor Ricky." I asked this pastor is this young man's name Alex? He said it was. What a blessing, his wife was against his acceptance of Christ but now she is visiting churches with him. It turns out Alex was only working in San Lorenzo, but lives in Tarija. I and this pastor are planning on visiting Alex in the near future.

Please pray extra hard for the believers this month and the coming month of Feb. The 25th of January the country is going to vote on a new constitution. Whether it is a "yes or no" there will be strife in the country. Also this is the time of year when the people use just about any religious observance as an excuse to drink and party. Yesterday for instance they were still celebrating the day of the Christ Child. While it is true there are fiestas all year the big ones here in this area are in January, February (Carnival), and April (Passover). So please pray for the young believers here for strength during this time of temptation. There is an overbearing amount of pressure from their families to participate in this celebration for the sake of family tradition.

Simply His Servants and for His Glory

Rick & Sheila Ackerman

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