



RICK AND SHEILA ACKERMAN
MINISTERING IN BOLIVIA

Greetings from your missionaries in Bolivia.

February 21, 2022

I hope this update finds you all well, and knowing that God is still in control even though our world seems to be out of control. Just a few verses to encourage us during this time.

Isaiah 14:24 – “*The LORD of hosts hath sworn, saying, Surely as I have thought, so shall it come to pass; and as I have purposed, so shall it stand*” **Isaiah 41:10** – “*Fear thou not; for I am with thee: be not dismayed; for I am thy God: I will strengthen thee; yea, I will help thee; yea, I will uphold thee with the right hand of my righteousness.*”

Things are going well in the ministry. The government has dropped many of the Covid rules and the ones in place are not really enforced. Therefore, all of our services are in person. This last week we had all those who were assisting by Zoom for health reasons come to the church in person. What a blessing it was to see everybody together!

Currently I am preaching a series on the “I am ...” in the Gospel of John. Wednesday nights we are doing a walk-through the Bible, to how see how God prepared His people for the coming of the Messiah. With the youth I am doing an apologetics course on how to defend their faith. Currently the topic is, “Why we can have Confidence in the Scriptures.” We have been busy with discipleships as well.

3 weeks ago, we were to have 3 baptisms, but when the 3 got covid we had to postpone the baptisms. They have since recovered and we are rescheduling. Last Sunday we had two young girls accept Christ. Their names are Nayara (10) and Yolanda (11). They have been coming faithfully to church for several years and finally decided to accept Christ as their Savior, Amen!!! They are already being discipled by Sheila.

Sometime in January our health decided to fail us, as we felt a real lack of energy. No pain, no coughs, and nothing really that stood out. We just had no energy, and naps became necessary during the day. Well maybe that is normal when you turn 62. But we would still wake up feeling tired. Then in early February Rick’s lungs started to give him problems. I chalked it up as being the normal allergic reaction I have at this time of year, due to crop spraying in our area. I started my regular treatment and it did not work, I took a Covid Antigen Test, negative. I ended up going to the Pulmonologist here and he ordered some tests. We did the Elisa Covid Antibody Test and it showed I had asymptomatic covid in January. Hmm, I am vaccinated with 2 Pfizer’s and a booster, took Hydroxychloroquine as a preventative measure and I still got asymptomatic covid. I have fallen into the category of asymptomatic covid patients who have secondary effects that are worse than effects of the actual onset of the virus. The doctor says I may now have Asthma for the rest of my life, something I never experienced before. Did the vaccine keep me out of the 3rd world hospital? Maybe, but I want to give the credit to my Lord!!! Sheila appears to recuperating also, she just feels tired. We are sure she had covid also, as we are with each other so much.

The church property has been cleared again of the weeds, its rainy season here and they were 3 feet tall. Some of the brethren went and did it without me, as I was of no help physically. The architect is finishing up the plans, he is doing all the drawings for free in his spare time, so it is taking a little longer. This is a blessing.

Praises: The Salvation of Nayara and Yolanda, the baptisms to come, and all have returned to church.

Prayer: Our health, and the construction of the new building, our discipleships, protection of the brethren, as Bolivia celebrates its month long wicked fiesta to the devil, Carnaval.

For His Glory, Matt. 5:16
Rick & Sheila Ackerman