



The Ackerman Family - Missionaries to Bolivia

March 28, 2016

Dear Prayer Partners, and family! The day of celebrating the Resurrection of our Lord and Savior has come and gone, but that does not mean we cannot continue to Praise and celebrate His name for the wonderful blessings of Salvation and His intercession for us at the right hand of God the Father. I hope we continue to do so on a daily basis.

We were able to have our children's VBS after all on January 19-22. And I must say it turned out very well, there were about 40- 50 in attendance each day, the gospel was presented and we had lots of help. We did have to postpone it one day, but the following day was nothing but blue skies. Then came Feb. 7, the day San Lorenzo was to host Carnaval, so the plan was to escape into the country side for a Church picnic before the town wide party could get going. We had our normal service in the morning and made our escape to a dam and lake not far from San Lorenzo. It was a gorgeous day, we cooked out, played games, hiked to the falls, fellowshiped and ate again. It was a blessing to have the majority of church participating. When March 14-19 rolled around we flew to the city of Santa Cruz where we assisted the Fundamental Baptist International Conf. in Santa Cruz. It was great hearing some good preaching, but the fellowship is always my favorite part and getting reconnected with old friends and meeting new ones. We quickly returned to San Lorenzo for our Bolivian Fathers Day celebration on March 20. It was a Mexican theme for the day, with a Mexican meal being served. Soledad and Yosalin did a great job in decorating and making sombreros for all the fathers, while the rest of the ladies made the meal of tacos, and served. We had eleven fathers, and of those, 5 were first time visitors. The message was "The True Love of a Father" Then on March 23-26 we were back on the plane again to Santa Cruz and off to Mariana in a express taxi, the trip was 3 hours to Mariana where I was to preach a Couples retreat. There were about 30 couples in attendance. The topic was God's design for Marriage and our role as husband and wife in the Marriage.

If you never have been in an express taxi in Bolivia you really need to try it sometime. Disney, Universal Studios and Six Flags you have nothing over the Bolivian express taxi through the mountains. For \$50 two people can get a ride that will put any rollercoaster to shame, and the good thing is, well not so good, it can last 3 hours! Not so good because I do not do to well anymore on these trips and then there is the residual effect of motion sickness for up to a few days afterwards. We quickly returned by express taxi to Santa Cruz and again by plane to Tarija to celebrate the Resurrection of our Lord in San Lorenzo on the 27th. It was a good Sunday service with a dinner and fellowship following the service. Sheila and I will now shift gears back into normal range for the remainder of April, a blessing indeed.

On a sadder note, we have decided to shut sown the ministry in Canasmoro. It was a decision we have been praying about for some time now. I cannot stress enough the importance of a good Christian testimony. Many times we as Christians are the only Bible the unbelievers will every read and they read us everyday when we talk and walk through out the day. At times a testimony can make a ministry soar for God's glory or it can kill it. Well the bad testimony of several who failed to live for the glory of God has brought to an end the work there in Canasmoro. We have decided to encourage Adelma and her son Oliver to make the trip to San Lorenzo for Sunday services so they can have fellowship. Adelma took the decision hard, and it was hard for us, as we invested 3 years there, it was not a wasted 3 years as there were 6 salvations with 3 of them still walking with the Lord. With this change we plan on putting more energy into the work in San Lorenzo.

Prayer Requests: Please continue to pray for restoration of Sandro and Maria, they are sending their children to church now, but they have failed to come on a regular basis; for Adelma and Oliver to continue to come to church in San Lorenzo; and that the first time visitors on Fathers Day will return.

Praises: Safe travels; that Aldo and Daisy have decided to stay in the area; Sandro's and Maria's two children have returned to church; a wonderful time at the Couples Retreat; and that we serve a Risen Savior!!

For His Glory, Matt. 5:16

Rick & Sheila Ackerman

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