## RICK AND SHEILA ACKERMAN MINISTERING IN BOLIVIA

1 of April 2025

Dear Prayer Partners and Friends.

It seems strange to be writing this update on Aprils Fools Day. I want to assure you that everything I say in this letter is the truth and nothing but the truth.

The main auditorium is finally done. It is beautiful, and best of all we saw the Hand of God supply all the needs through the brethren in the USA and here in Bolivia. We are meeting in the Auditorium now and it is perfect. We lack a few details on the outside, an extended covering over the entry. We found out that the rain got blown in under the door and we ended up with a pool of water on the inside of the building.

The situation with the property and community where the donated property in the city is the same. The hardest thing for me in the culture is the slowness of how things move. It is slower than a snail pace. As a country Bolivia has slowly entered an economic crisis, there has been a scarcity of fuel, because the government has no money. Every gas station has had long lines reminiscent of the 70's gas crisis in the USA. It is worse for diesel, I have heard of trucks waiting 24 hrs + in line for fuel, and cars up to 12 hours. This last week the lines for gasoline have been shorter, but that is about to change.

So, you can imagine the prices of goods have skyrocketed. On Wednesday the Transport sector plans on blocking the roads indefinitely until the government creates a solution to the problem. It will be interesting as it is hard to fix something without resources. This year is also the elections, so the country is gearing up for that as well.

Thanks for praying for Ronaldo, the young man who jumped off the bridge. He is doing better and is back in the university. Armando, a good friend and faithful man in the church lost his battle with cancer on Feb 6. The family asked me to give a message at his viewing and funeral at the house, and at the graveside, and then a celebration of life in the church. It was an emotional week, and 4 sermons were shared. I thank the Lord for that blessed opportunity.

Today we got message that a sister of a faithful sister in Christ (Daysi) passed away after a battle with cancer, her name was Sonia. Sheila and I have been ministering to Daysi, we had the opportunity to minister Sonia and her family last Tuesday. She was a firm catholic up until the end of her life. She wanted nothing to do with us during her battle, but then last week she asked for us to come and visit. We talked about salvation and the Savior, she said she now believed in Christ as the only way to Heaven and He was her Savior. Praise the Lord! Tonight is her viewing and tomorrow is her funeral. Maybe the Lord will give me an opportunity to share something. Sonia's only adult child is catholic, as is most of the family, so there will be a service in the Catholic Church. It is a delicate area when a Christian passes in a predominately catholic family, it can cause a huge division during a time of morning. We wish not to see the division and anger, but that they all see Christ in us as we minister to them.

<u>Please pray for:</u> Sister Daysi and her family, the economic crisis in Bolivia, Ronaldo's continued progress, the paperwork and the community where we were donated the property; wisdom, and health for both of us

**Praise:** For our Savior, the progress on the church, and that we can continue to minister.

We thank the Lord for your prayers for us, and this ministry. Thank you for your sacrifice in giving to this ministry. For His Glory, Rick & Sheila Ackerman

Sending Church

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Baptist Pioneer Mission

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The link for making online donations is; <a href="https://secure.subsplash.com/ui/access/NX87WD/">https://secure.subsplash.com/ui/access/NX87WD/</a> If you desire to give, please put "Ackerman" in the memo section of the online gift.