



The Ackerman Family - Missionaries to Bolivia

Aug 11, 2015

Dear Prayer Partners, and family! We are back in the saddle again! We are arrived in Santa Cruz, Bolivia on Aug 4 but because of a national holiday and inflated ticket prices we did not get a flight to Tarija until Aug 7. Our time in Santa Cruz was well spent, we had a nice meeting with the director of our mission and we got some much-needed R&R after 4 months of stressful travel. Customs did go through every piece of luggage and confiscated 2 of the 3 jars of canned salmon our Alaskan friends gave us. They were very interested in the Betty Lukens Flannel graph set that one of our Alaskan churches gave us. Customs asked "why so many?" we answered, "Because the Bible has so many great stories." Then we heard the sweetest words "Ok, you can go." Thanks for your prayers!!!

This furlough trip, although short, was a complete success. I got my knee replaced and it is healing well, we saw our daughter graduate from Shepherds College in a very moving and Christ centered ceremony. We were able to get Sharon all set up for the next phase of her life. We were able to visit our son Brandon and his wife in Tacoma, and our son Joel in Alaska; and we got to visit almost all of our supporting churches in Alaska. To top the trip off we got to visit and catch up with family and friends. What a blessing it was to see them and have fellowship. We look forward to our next furlough to the lower 48 states. But until then we all have our work to do, for us it is the Lord's ministry here in San Lorenzo and the other villages. His work is our joy!

The ministry in Bolivia while under Ellis and Jillian did well and they took great care of our home. They had their struggles with the transportation, but they did not let that keep them from ministering. Ellis and Jillian had a 3-day VBS in San Lorenzo where they had 40 in attendance. The story of Jonah was taught, there was good participation, and enjoyed by all. They also had a baby shower for Sister Saida and a "Friendship Day" where everybody could invite a friend to participate in a catered meal and hear the Word of God. During the time Ellis and Jillian were here they saw the Lord save two precious souls, Dina and Laticia. They are both adult ladies. Thank you Ellis and Jillian!

On Sunday night I preached for the first time in 4 months in Spanish. I was a little nervous but I was just so happy to see so many friendly faces at church. We had a very good crowd and the majority of them showed up on time! For Bolivia that is a great achievement. We are going to make some changes in the church so pray with us that these changes are positives steps. Our main service remains to be Sunday evening. Sheila was teaching a Sunday morning children's class, but due to low attendance we are cancelling it. She will continue to teach the children in the evening. We also are starting a small class/nursery in the evening for 1-5 yrs olds, we are asking the parents to take turns in leading this class. We will dedicate our Sunday mornings ministering in Sella Mendez, a village close by. We have several people coming to church in San Lorenzo from Sella Mendez in the evenings, but there is no public transportation so their attendance is very sporadic, therefore we desire to take the Word to them.

Charo who was coming regularly has fallen and broken her elbow, she is now in La Paz recuperating. Maria was at church with the kids but her other half; Sandro has been out of fellowship for some time. We wish to give thanks for Greatland Baptist Church, and Pastor Cliff Henry for their renewed support of this ministry.

Prayer requests: Wisdom, the restoration of Sandro; salvation for Doña Charo and healing of her elbow: the changes in ministry and beginning a work in Sella Mendez; helpers. **Praises:** God's protection in travel; God's provision of \$ for the repairs of the truck and our trip to the USA; the salvation of Dina and Laticia; and Sharon's new home.

For His Glory, Matt. 5:16

Rick & Sheila Ackerman

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