RICK AND SHEILA ACKERMAN MINISTERING IN BOLIVIA

Dear Prayer Partners and Friends.

26 of July 2025

We pray all is well with all of you, and if you are in the middle of a trial, we pray you sense the direction and presence of the Lord. As Believers in the Lord, we are never promised a life without trials, as some false teachers teach. But we are promised the Lord's presence in the middle of those trials.

Psalms 46:1 "God is our refuge and strength, A very present help in trouble" Mathew 28:20 "....I am with you alway, even unto the end of the world. Amen"

I must remind myself often that not only is Jesus with me but that there are purposes for our trials. Why do I start out a prayer letter by saying these things? It is because we find ourselves in the midst of a trial now. We had to make an unscheduled visit to the States for medical reasons. It was not what we were planning as we had big plans for the church in San Lorenzo this year. However, God had other plans, and we trusted Him and now we see Him working. My back had started to give me lots of problems again and some pinched nerves were causing some other problems, so we decided to get it checked out before the damage became permanent. Sheila also has had some Carpal Tunnel problems. Sheila is scheduled for surgery on Aug 7. My back doctor said my issue is complicated, so he referred me to a neurologist who then referred me to a neurosurgeon who specializes in difficult spinal cases. At first, I was frustrated by the referrals but now I appreciate my original doctor getting other opinions so he can do what is best for me. Meanwhile I do the required PT twice a week. My next referral appointment is Sept 4; please pray I can get in sooner. We really want to get back to Bolivia before Christmas.

You may not recall but 25 years ago the Lord used my back issue to get me into missions, and He has been faithful to keep me there. I do believe He will see this work through and give us a few more years.

In our absence we have seen the church step up even more to cover the gaps when we had to leave. I do have 4 faithful pastor friends from the city of Tarija who are filling the pulpit on Sundays with a rotating basis. Sheila and I continue to meet with the brethren every Wednesday night by Google Meet, for prayer and Bible Study.

We praise the Lord because while being here, we have been able to spend 2 days with 3 of our granddaughters, 2 of whom we have never seen, and they are 2 years old. And our oldest who is 8 who we have not seen in 4 years.

Also, we have 2 aunts and 1 uncle fighting cancer, which is heavy on our hearts. I pray we can be a blessing to them in some way. 2 of which the cancer is not growing, but my youngest aunt Janelle with pancreatic cancer had to stop treatment. Please pray for Janelle, Barb, and Jim.

The situation in Bolivia has not gotten better, the absence of gas and diesel continues, prices are out of control. The elections are the 17th of August, and the ex-president Evo Morales said if he is not on the ballot there will be bloodshed and no election. Well, he is not on the ballot. So, we will see what happens.

<u>Please pray for:</u> Sheila and my health, our drs appts and Sheila's surgery, my aunts and uncle, the brethren in Bolivia that God would supply all their needs, the election there. <u>Praise:</u> The chance to know and bond with 2 of our grandchildren for the first time and re-bond with the oldest. God's faithfulness even in the midst of trials.

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

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