

RICK AND SHEILA ACKERMAN
MINISTERING IN BOLIVIA

25 of September 2025

Greetings Prayer and Ministry Partners, we hope this update finds you all enjoying the Joy of the Lord!

John 15:11 *"These things have I spoken unto you, that my joy might remain in you, and that your joy might be full"*

In the last update I shared that Sheila and I have some medical issues. Well Sheila had her hand surgery and it is healing well. I am still waiting for my back surgery, they gave me a date of Oct 29 but I am on a waiting list for a sooner date. They did call me for Sept 15, but I had not been off the medicines long enough and I was scheduled that day for cataract surgery. Just today got a call that bumped the surgery to Oct 24. The Dr's office will keep bumping me up as slots open. Until then I continue with physical therapy to deal with the pain and to get stronger so I will heal quicker.

The other day I had a conversation with someone, and it went like this. "So and so is just there waiting to die." They were referring to a loved one in a nursing home. It really saddened me, because I personally know of loved ones in nursing homes who literally think this, "I'm here just to die." Sheila and I have had ministries to the elderly for years. And there is a difference in how a Christian full of God's love faces death and a person who does not. We have seen it firsthand several times. We have prayed with people, who while suffering, still had the joy of Lord and on their death- bed rejoiced because they were nearer to Heaven than ever before. That is the kind of Christian I want to be, that the Joy of the Lord would be in me until I take my last breath. Just yesterday we had the blessing of having lunch with a couple who have been married for 65 years. They are 92 and 90 still living at home and driving. We rode with them to the restaurant, and this brother did a great job driving. But as we talked, I saw in them a love for the Lord and confidence in Him. And that my friends is the key to the Joy of the Lord, even when times are tough. I believe we need to remind ourselves daily, maybe many times a day who we are in Christ, and it is God's Spirit that lives in us, that gives us that joy.

The work in Bolivia is going well. I am so thankful for my good friend who has filled the pulpit for me, Pastor Iban. The reason why is because sometimes you get a fill in who does what they want to do. My friend has called me at least twice a week to discuss things and to make sure he is doing it as I would. This is a tremendous blessing for us. And the people tell me they see he is very committed and caring for the work. The last phone call with him, he wanted to know what we are going to do for our 18th anniversary in November. So, we are working together on that. I am excited for this anniversary because the will of the brethren is to do something that evangelizes the community. I continue to do the Wednesday night Prayer and Bible Study with the brethren in Bolivia via Google Meet. We are doing a survey of the Old Testament and last night we finished up Leviticus 16 a powerful chapter on the Day of Atonement.

We have also gotten enough funds together from donations from the brethren of San Lorenzo and churches to start phase 3 of our building project. We are thankful for the brethren and the churches in the States who are co-laboring with us and our Lord. I also decided to take advantage of this time to re-enroll in seminary, taking courses on Biblical counseling to help me in the ministry.

The situation in Bolivia has not gotten better, the absence of gas and diesel continues, prices are out of control. The 1st election was peaceful but there were 2 candidates that were too close so there will be a runoff election Oct. 19th.

Please pray for: Sheila and my health, my surgery date to be bumped up again, the brethren in Bolivia that God would supply all their needs, the election there. **Praise:** God's faithfulness in the midst of trials, and for Pastor Iban

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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