



# The Ackerman Family

Missionaries to Bolivia

February 24, 09

Dear Family, Friends and Prayer Partners, this has been the sad question we have heard over and over again these last two weeks "Why haven't you learned to drink yet?" We are in the full swing of Carnaval. First they symbolically released the devil from the ground and gave him the keys to the city to influence the fiestas, and today as I write all the taxis and trucks are dressed up and their owners are drunk and having parties offering sacrifices and asking Pachi Mama for her blessings on their trucks and homes, and it is not even 9am yet.

The question we were asked "You haven't learned to drink yet?" is in response to our refusal to participate in their drinking and festivities. This usually also opens a door to share about our Lord.

The sad truth is that they literally teach their children to participate in these fiestas of drunkenness.

We have gone to the schools and watched the kids in kindergarten to High school doing their folkloric dances and they seem very innocent. Then Carnaval roles around and you see these same adults and kids doing those same dances, but with the added touch, excessive drunkenness. They have taught their children very well to carry on their unholy traditions. These traditions that they consider fun have actually ruined many families and caused so much pain, the evidence is all around us but they are truly blind to the truth.

I think on this and rephrase the question to myself, "Have I learned to be a Christian yet? Yes, but I have still room to grow! "Christ is working in me." The question should not stop here though, it should go on to include "As a Christian am I teaching my kids how to be Christians?" Am I living the example I should be? Do my kids see that church is important to me? Do they see me communicating with my Lord in prayer? Do they see that my relationship with Jesus Christ is real and I enjoy it? Do they see me loving my wife like Christ loved the Church? Wouldn't it be wonderful if our children learned to have meaningful personal relationships with our Savior and be a positive example to their children by teaching them what it means to be a Christian? As John said in 3 John 4:4 *"I have no greater joy than to hear that my children walk in truth."*

The ministry here is doing well. I was blessed on Saturday night when we had over a dozen young people show up despite the temptations all around. We have also started a personal Bible study with the parents of Julie and Soledad. One young mother named Dora really desires to obey Christ. She just recently asked me to dedicate her baby to the Lord. It was a great opportunity to teach on the difference between infant baptism and dedication.

**Please pray** that the Believers here would stay strong during these tempting times; for Dora that she would decide to be baptized; that Armando and Asunta Donaïre will continue with the discipleship; and that their daughters Julie and Soledad would be granted permission from their parents to be baptized.

**Praises:** Jamil and Dora are growing in the Lord and are seeking to know more about Christ. Soledad has been regularly taking Chic tracks and giving them to her classmates at school.

Simply His Servants and for His Glory

*Rick & Sheila Ackerman*

## **Sending Church**

Mt. View Baptist Church  
Copper Center, AK  
(907)-822-5262

## **Mission Agency (Support)**

Baptist Pioneer Mission  
P.O. Box 5114  
Kincheloe, MI. 49788  
(906)-495-5203  
[www.baptistpioneermission.org](http://www.baptistpioneermission.org)

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