



## The Ackerman Family - Missionaries to Bolivia

July 9, 2014

Dear Prayer Partners, greetings in the name of our Lord. I sure dislike starting a prayer letter by apologizing; but I need to apologize for my lack of communication. It seems that time has gotten away from us again; please forgive us.

Winter is officially here Bolivia, and we are officially all settled into our new home here in El Barranco. Interesting we found out our location is one of the coldest spots in the valley; therefore we have decided to build a wood burning stove to heat the house, during those cold winter nights. My arthroscopic knee surgery here has been put on hold as Doctor Acosta has fallen severely ill.

The ministries are doing fine, in San Lorenzo we had some unwanted excitement when someone broke into the church to rob us. Our neighbor lady called us at 11:30 pm to inform us of the break-in in progress. We drove over there as quickly as we could and could hear the robbers making lots of noise. They dropped the stuff, climbed over the patio wall, and escaped into the cornfield. We have since added additional motion sensor lighting and better locks. This incident followed the stealing of our German shepherd pup, that we got for future home security purposes. Thankfully we recovered the pup after hearing her cry for 2 nights across the river. Sadly the crime has increased in the city of Tarija because of the huge increase of immigrants from other departments. Of all of the fundamental Baptist works in the City of Tarija, every one of them has been robbed, or the house of the pastor has been robbed or both. We have also been targeted since we are only 30 minutes from the city.

Speaking of the work we have our ups and downs, but last Sunday was an up as we had 31 people in the main service of San Lorenzo. It has been a difficult year in San Lorenzo because we have 6 adults who are professional teachers, and the government is requiring all teachers to go through mandatory licensing, which means months of additional classes after hours and on Saturdays and Sundays. Needless to say, these teachers are tired and are missing a lot of church. While they are getting more knowledge there will be no pay increases for them. It will be nice for the church when this training is all done.

Then ministry in Canasmoro is still going, with Adelma being the most hungry for the Word. She is such an encouragement to us even in the midst of her own struggles with her teenage son Yoel.

Starting the week of July 19th we have a special blessing coming our way. For the first time in the 7 years we have been in San Lorenzo we have team coming to help us in ministry for a week. The seminary in Vallegrande, Bolivia is sending 7 students to help us for that week. We have got a full week of VBS's planned. We will do 2-day clubs in San Lorenzo, Canasmoro, and Sella Mendez. They will also do some preaching and help with some small building projects. We are excited to have this help and to get something going in the community of Sella Mendez, because we now have 4-6 people coming from this community to our services in San Lorenzo, therefore it would be nice to start something in this community. Remember the closing door in Ciriminuelas? From the husband/wife team from our church that used to teach in Ciriminuelas, one of them has transferred to Sella Mendez and her husband is making the transfer in the future. Therefore Sella Mendez is an opening door.

**Prayer requests** Please pray for the health of Dr. Acosta; for the young lady, Adelma and her family situation; The team of 7 and the VBS's the 21<sup>st</sup> - 28<sup>th</sup> and that the door stays open in Sella Mendez; the protection of the Baptist works from thieves; Hna. Daysi who is scheduled for C- Section Thursday am. **Praises:** The team of 7 coming from the Seminary; our health and our Salvation.

*For His Glory, Matt. 5:16.*

*Rick & Sheila Ackerman*

### **Sending Church**

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### **Mission Agency (Support)**

Baptist Pioneer Mission  
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