



The Ackerman Family

Missionaries to Bolivia

Dear Family and Friends, Greetings in the name of the Lord Jesus!

19 of October 2009

I am reminded to be thankful for you every time I look at the news from the U.S. It seems our country is experiencing some very strong economic and social challenges but you are still with us, for this we give thanks to our Lord. We want you to know that we do appreciate your sacrifice of prayer and support for this ministry during these difficult times.

I must admit it has been a very difficult week for me this last week. Yes, missionaries are normal people. It is difficult when you live among and minister to people that have no qualms in telling lies. It has been said that the Bolivian people will try to tell you what you want to hear and this is true of the majority of the people here. I allowed this to get to me this week and honestly it depressed me.

However, I praise the Lord! The Lord showed me something last night at church. I was preaching out of Jeremiah 18, 19 about us being the clay and God the Potter who is molding us, sometimes through trials, to be vessels of honor to His glory. There were several interruptions during the service, one boy walked up and asked what time it was, and then 20 min later interrupted again when he walked up and said he had to go. Then there were about 6 kids out of the 20 people gathered who had trouble finding the Bible verses with only Sheila to help find them, and then there was the little boy who was learning how to read who kept reading all the verses out loud with me, but not in sync. Then there were the barking dogs, traffic, and the drunks in the street yelling at each other.

It was becoming too much and I was thinking, "how could the Holy Spirit work in such an environment?" I asked if more people could help the 6 kids find the Bible passages and two of the youth came forward and sat among them to help. Can the Holy Spirit work in such an environment? Yes, and He did with me. I then saw it all in a different light. Everybody wanted to follow along in their Bibles; they wanted to understand God's Word. Even the two youth who came forward to help blessed my heart. I did not call on names; they answered the call to serve. There are times when we wonder as missionaries "Are we doing any good here, is God using us?" Then God will give us a reminder or a little preview of His work and it suddenly all becomes worthwhile once again.

Yes, ministry is demanding and frustrating at times, but it is all worth it when you see someone hunger for the Word of God or when another soul is saved from eternal damnation in Hell and their name is written in the Book of Life. And it is worth it, because it is the least we can do for our God who sent His Son to die in our place and to pay for our sins on the cross of Calvary so that we would not have to spend the rest of eternity separated from Him in the everlasting lake of fire.

Please continue to pray for: Wisdom and boldness for us; for those who are coming to grow in their relationship with the Lord; that we would be able to reach more adults with the Gospel.

Praises: For God's faithfulness!

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

Field Address & Correspondence

Rick Ackerman
Casilla #490
Tarija, Bolivia
South America
www.theackermanfamily.net