



The Ackerman Family - Missionaries to Bolivia

Dec. 10, 2013,

Merry Christmas!!! Jesus is the reason for the season, for our Joy, for our Peace, and our salvation. Just preached a message on "Losing the Significance of Christmas". And how even at the time of Jesus' birth there were those who missed out. The caretaker of the inn was too busy, and had no time for Mary, Joseph, or Christ. King Herod, was too busy keeping himself on the throne. The religious leaders who advised Herod knew the Christ was to be born in Bethlehem and were advised he was born by the Magi, but were indifferent to His birth. My prayer and hope is that none of us would be too busy, or self centered, or indifferent to the birth of Jesus that we would forget what Christmas is all about. It's about God who humbled Himself, became a man, yet still being fully God, lived as a man, suffered as a man, was crucified to become the perfect sacrifice to take away the sins of the world, and then raised from the dead to sit on His throne at the right hand of God. Christmas is about Jesus Christ our Savior!!!! Amen, Amen, and Amen !!!! *"For unto you is born this day in the city of David a Savior, which is Christ the Lord."* Luke 2:11

The ministry in Cirminuela once a month has been a blessing to us. The 33 kids and the 3 teachers are very responsive, and polite. And the best thing is they keep inviting us back. The Todos Transformados or RU program is still meeting. We had to do some changes in scheduling because the last three weeks only 1 person showed up. Since some are teachers and the others have kids in school, they are really busy with programs and papers preparing for summer break, so the attendance was less. Also we have the same core group coming Wed. night, Sunday, and Fri. and for them the previous schedule has caused them to make a choice as to what service to attend or not attend. So we all agreed TT was very important, and we moved TT to Wed. night after prayer time and cancelled Fri. night. Friday nights are now open for personal discipleships. We are thankful for the group we have but it saddens us to see that alcoholism is so cultural that those outside the church think it is normal. We are praying more would see their need for help and for a Savior.

Sometimes we feel overwhelmed and I think maybe if we pulled back a little and concentrated on San Lorenzo more, we could be more effective; but then I see the kids' smiles when we arrive in Cirminuela, and Canasmoro, and hear from some of the adults how thankful they are we are there and then I dismiss the thoughts of pulling back. Last prayer letter I shared we were going to Sella every Sunday, to do a discipleship. Well Diter and Saida got saved and were baptized last month.

The young lady from Lajas (Yocelin) who received the Lord has not continued with her discipleship but is coming to the church now and then. Yuli has returned to the church once again, thanks to your prayers. Some other big news is Aldo and Daysi will be married on Dec. 21, everybody is very excited about this. The house is coming along fine; we hope to be in it sometime in January 2013.

Prayer requests Wisdom and strength for us to keep up with the ministry; The RU ministry in San Lorenzo; keep praying for the young ladies, Yuli and Yocelin: Salvation of the Aldana and Zenteno families, someone or a family to help us in the ministry here, the wedding of Aldo and Daysi; and our Christmas program the 24th of Dec., Rick's right knee: doctor said I need a new knee but I am too young so we will do arthroscopic surgery here in Bolivia and some injections, after all settles down, probably in Feb.

Praises: The baptisms of Diter and Saida, Progress on the house, the good rain we received. (It was so dry we have been limited to just a couple hours of water a day for the last 5 weeks.) Faithful prayer partners of which without you, we could not be here. Our son Joel will be traveling to Bolivia for a month this week.

For His Glory, Matt. 5:16.

Rick & Sheila Ackerman

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