



RICK AND SHEILA ACKERMAN
MINISTERING IN BOLIVIA

1 of September 2023

Dear Praying Churches and Friends,

Greetings in name of our precious Savior. He sure has been good to us and I pray you have found Him faithful in your lives as well.

As most of you know we are in the USA on a mostly medical furlough. Last prayer letter I asked if any church within a day's drive from Omaha wanted a visit from us to contact me, some said yes! We were able to visit those within a day's drive who reached out to us, but unfortunately, we could not go and visit any that were beyond that.

Why we could not, is because it was the doctors and Insurance Company that kept us on a short leash. This was so frustrating for us as we jumped through their hoops and completed their requirements for the surgery I was to have. To those who asked us to come and were over a day's travel, I am sorry we did not get to come visit you. We sure wanted to and I am thankful for your desire to have us. We even thought of visiting our Alaska churches, but that was not in God's plan this time around.

God has been good to us; He has taken care of the ministry in our absence and brought us to the point where I need to ask for specific prayer for my surgery that was finally approved. On September 13 I will have a Neck Decompression and Fusion surgery. The reason is because in the last 2 years I have lost dexterity in my fingers, and have pains down my arms, and if I lift my arms to shave, I get nausea and weakness in my upper body. I don't dare work over my head and look up, because the nerves in my neck get pinched off and I blank out. I have severe stenosis and no discs left, therefore as the doctor says, the off ramps of my spinal canal get pinched off. Thank the Lord the Spinal Canal is good. Those off ramps will be cleaned up on Sept. 13. The recuperation time to be able to fly back to Bolivia, with restrictions, is one month.

Never the less with all that is going on we have been busy; we both got our new glasses. Sheila's stomach issues have been diagnosed and she is on a treatment plan. I Rick, got hearing aids and my lung issue that has dragged on for 2 years is gone after visiting a wonderful specialist. We continue to visit my dad in the memory care unit as he keeps slipping further from us. I want to share something I think everyone of us could benefit from what a sister in Christ from Bolivia shared with me. A couple of weeks ago I shared with the brethren my burden about my dad and this sister wrote me. "Pastor my dad had Alzheimer's also and in the final days he acted as a toddler, like your dad is. He did not know me, but he knew love so I just made sure he felt loved. In this way he was comforted" Wow, she is right! I noticed my dad around others is quiet and a recluse, but when we get him alone in his room, his inhibitions go out the window and he is just a talker. He makes no sense most of the time and cannot communicate. But he is happy, because he feels secure. In the last weeks we have picked up a couple phrases he repeats often. Like, "I'm going up... things are lining up perfectly... I'm entering a good place where everything fits" I have known my dad is saved for some time, but is God giving him assurances of Heaven?

Wise words from our sister in Christ, "just let them feel loved". I share that because each one of us has or will be affected by someone who needs to feel the love of Christ.

Please pray for: Ricks upcoming surgery **Sept 13**, Sheila's treatment for her stomach problem, Brother Sandro who leads the church in my absence and Pastor Francisco who is preaching for me, and our Zoom meetings with church on Wednesdays in Bolivia.

Praise: For the approval of the surgery, Sheila is getting better, and the opportunities to serve in Legacy Baptist Church in Oakland, Ia.

Here is a link to our furlough video on YouTube; https://youtu.be/n-R96WKzFeE?si=y_H8fWZ9l622gPac or look up; Ackerman Furlough 2023.

We pray that the Lord is blessing the work He has for you, as He is ours.

Thank you for your continued prayers and financial support these years.

For His Glory, Rick & Sheila Ackerman

Sending Church

Mt. View Baptist Church
Copper Center, AK 99573
(907)-822-5262

Mission Agency (Support)

Baptist Pioneer Mission
P.O. Box 5114, Kincheloe, MI. 49788
(906)-495-5203

Field Address

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The link for making online donations is; <https://secure.subsplash.com/ui/access/NX87WD/>
If you desire to give, please put "Ackerman" in the memo section of the online gift.