



RICK AND SHEILA ACKERMAN  
MINISTERING IN BOLIVIA

8 of June 2023

Dear Praying Churches and Friends,

Greetings we pray all is well with you. The Lord has been very good to us, proving Himself faithful and merciful to us as always.

As I write this update, we find ourselves on a short furlough in the United States. At the writing of the last prayer letter, we did not know if this furlough would be possible because of turmoil in Bolivia. But as you know by now, there is always political turmoil in Bolivia. We just have to wait for the calm in the storm, praying there are no blockades or sudden obstacles that would keep us from our plans. Praise the Lord we were able to leave without a hiccup in the plans. Our house and God's church are well taken care off.

Our plan was to be in Florida for Mother's Day so we could spend it with Sheila's mom who just moved into an assisted living facility at the age of 86. This was the first time Sheila could spend Mother's Day with her mom since Sheila's teen years. We cherish the time we had with her and thank the Lord for allowing it to happen. Now we find ourselves in Iowa with a schedule full of Doctor Appointments. I was able to visit my dad in a memory care unit, but sadly he did not know me and his ability to speak on topic was not possible. Many of you know what I am talking about. But our visit went as well as it could and I cherished the time with him.

On June 3, I officiated the wedding of my nephew and his wife in Cheyenne, Wyoming. What a beautiful wedding it was, and my nephew Dave and his wife Stephanie insisted we glorify God in their wedding. I thoroughly enjoyed doing so as we stood outside surrounded by God's creation at Curt Gowdy State Recreation Area in the Laramie mountains.

On June 4 we presented in Anchor Baptist Church in Scottsbluff where we we felt the love of Christ. Thank you, Church Family at Anchor Baptist. Earlier we had presented on May 28 in Legacy Baptist Church, in Oakland, Iowa. Thank you church family at Legacy for your ministry to us.

You may be asking when are you coming to see us? We would love to but we cannot visit every church on this furlough, because our medical appts are really complicating things. Let me explain, I was supposed to come back have 6 weeks of PT and get a neck fusion. Well at my back doctor visit last week, the MRI's showed I was worse off than I thought and that I need a decompression and fusion in my neck and lower back. So that opened the door for more tests and an undetermined schedule. Then throw into the mix that I still need to see the pulmonologist for the Chronic and constant Asthma I developed just after getting the Covid Vaccination in 2021.

We also found out the medical system in the USA is not running as it once was. In considering all of the above factors it is making it very difficult to schedule meetings at this time. But if you are a supporting church within a day's drive from Western Iowa and are flexible, please give me a call or email me. We would love to see you and we could work something out. And if we cannot come, we would like to send you our 12-minute video presentation of the ministry and new prayer cards.

Now let's talk about Bolivia. A good pastor friend of mine, Pastor Francisco from the city, is preaching in our Sunday service and his wife Lilly is teaching the Sunday school for the children. Brother Sandro is keeping things going and teaching the youth, Brother Rider is driving the church van, and two sisters in Christ are acting as treasurers. I am teaching the mid-week Bible Study and prayer meeting via Zoom.

The one thing I can say about going on furlough, is that it encourages the people in Bolivia to get involved and rise to the occasion to fill our void.

We also got word from a sister in Christ in our church that she is donating a building lot. This lot is in the city of Tarija in a new construction zone. The zone has 360 residential lots and she is giving us a small lot next to the park where the people hang out. The stipulation is we plant a new church on the lot, a "Lighthouse Baptist Church #2". This is a blessing, because this sister is not the type to micro manage the work, she has been a real blessing. It will also be a good opportunity for the brethren of the church in San Lorenzo to participate in missions.

Just before we left Bolivia, we took 15 young people on a tent camping trip for 2 days. They heard the Word of God at least 3 times a day, 2 devotionals and a preaching. We all had a great time. We will be doing it again; don't know why we did not do it earlier. Then 2 weeks later we had a 1-day kids club and we ministered to about 30 children.

Please pray for: Ricks upcoming treatments and surgeries, Sheila's dr.'s appointments, the ministry in our absence, Brother Elias who found out his wife was unfaithful, and David who just lost his grandmother who was not only a grandmother, but also like a mother and father to him.

Praise: Our safe travels, the ministry being in good hands, Sheila being able to be with her mother on Mother's Day. Twin baby girls born May 26 to our oldest son Brandon and his wife Jennifer, and baby due any minute to our youngest son Joel and his wife Sylvan.

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

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