



The Ackerman Family - Missionaries to Bolivia

May 23, 2016

Dear Prayer Partners, and family: Sheila and I are blessed not only because we know Jesus Christ as our Savior and because we have Eternal Life, but because the Lord has been tremendously good to us these last 2 weeks. Some of you know that we had traveled to the States for our youngest sons graduation (Joel). He had chosen Liberty University to study aviation and to be a part of the US Air Force ROTC. It was all planned that it would be a family reunion as well, but in the end my parents had to cancel because my uncle Dean, my dad's brother was put into intensive care because of cancer; since then he has been released. So Mom and Dad changed plans to be with my uncle, which I support 100%. Then our oldest, Brandon could not make it either. But at the reunion was our daughter Sharon, our son Nathan, my mother in law, Nancy, our good friends all the way from Alaska, the Kimberlin Family, our former Pastor John Turner and his wife Mrs. Faye and the graduate Joel. I want to brag a little about what our God did for Joel, He gave Joel the determination to finish 4 years of college in 3.5 years; He gave Joel the determination to stay focused on his studies. He blessed Joel with good solid Christian friendships, He blessed Joel with good summer work, working on the boats in Prince William Sound Alaska, with our friends the Kimberlins, so he could help pay for his studies. Then He blessed Joel with a perfect grade in every class, in every semester, giving him the opportunity to graduate with Summa Laude honors. Who did he get this from, it was not me, his mom is intelligent but she also denies it came from her. Was it because he was Home Schooled? We believe it was God's grace and Joel's diligence to do his best for the glory of God. I must say his pinning ceremony into the Air Force, as Lt. Joel Ackerman was Christ centered and his graduation in Aviation was also Christ Centered. God is indeed Good!!!!

Joel will travel to Alaska and work for the summer; then he will report to his first duty station in Ellsworth Air Force Base, South Dakota as Aircraft maintenance officer starting in the fall.

The ministry here in San Lorenzo is going well, we only missed one Sunday because of our trip. About a month before we left on this trip we had changed the format of the Wed. night Bible Study and prayer time. Instead of meeting in the church we decided to meet in the homes. We made this change because Wed. night services were just a few of us and we wanted to promote fellowship and grow as a family. So we set forth this proposal and it was received with joy. Our first meeting we were 12 and then we grew to 20. The week before we were to leave for the states I announced we have to cancel the next two Wed. nights because I was traveling, but a Pastor friend would preach the Sunday I was gone. The reply from them was, "NO we will not cancel we will continue without you" and they did, they sent me pictures on What's-up to prove it. What a blessing it was to see this growth in them. These studies in the homes have had a wonderful impact on them, but they will never replace our Sunday Service. And if it grows to be more than 20 or 30 we will have to maybe move back to the church, but until then we will continue to see God use this for His Glory.

This Thursday, the 26th of May is Bolivian Mothers Day. We do plan on having an outreach to the Mothers on the following Sunday the 29th. This will include a Mothers Day message and a dinner prepared by the men to honor the mothers. The night before our services Sheila is invited to teach the ladies for the Mother's day outreach on Saturday night for the Baptist Church in Tabladita.

We are also continuing with our discipleships with some of the brethren in the church. And with joy I announce the restoration of Sandro and his wife Maria Elena. You will recall they have been away from the church for over a year.

Prayer Requests: Please pray for my Uncle Dean; for Adelma and Oliver to continue to come to church in San Lorenzo; and for the salvation of Henry and Dionilda.

Praises: Safe travels; Sandro and Maria have returned to church; a wonderful time at Joel's Graduation; and that our God is so Good!

For His Glory, Matt. 5:16

Rick & Sheila Ackerman

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