



The Ackerman Family - Missionaries to Bolivia

August 28, 2012,

Dear Family and Prayer Partners, Life the last two months has been a whirlwind of activities; therefore we give thanks for your prayers. If it were not for your prayers we might have lost our bearings. I, Ricky had to make a trip to the U.S. to take our daughter Sharon to Shepherds College in Union Grove, WI. While I was away Sheila and a Missionary couple (Tyler and Sandy Miller) kept the ministries going in my absence. We thank the Lord for their help. Sharon's enrolment was no easy task. There were visits to the Neurologist, Dentist, Family Practitioner, and eye doctor. Then there was a lot of paperwork for the school and also the finding of a good church. Mission Accomplished !! Sharon is doing well, but she is at times overwhelmed by the change. The staff is top notch and we believe Sharon will do well in this one of a kind Christian College. If the Lord leads you to help with Sharon's schooling please mark it as tuition for Sharon Ackerman and send it to Shepherds College, C/O Cynthia Rabbitt, 1805 15th Avenue, Union Grove, WI. 53182-1597. If you just want to write her note of encouragement: Shepherds College C/O Sharon Ackerman

While I was in Wisconsin, I had an outpatient surgery to remove my spinal cord stimulator, as it has gotten infected 3 times in the last year. I am 100% recovered from that surgery and back in the game. In my travel back to the U.S. our youngest son Joel travelled with us and then he flew up to the North Slope and is currently working there for the summer and saving his money for college. Nathan has enrolled for the Fall Semester at PCC. Our oldest son Brandon is still in Afghanistan, the short little notes from him are a blessing, they tell us God is keeping him safe in a world, that for him, is filled with long days, nights, suffering and even death. He is scheduled to return from his difficult tour in mid Dec. His Address for letters and Care Packages is;
PFC Ackerman, Brandon, A CO, 1-23 INBN, 3-2 SBCT, COP Mushan, APO AE 09355

The reality has set in; we are true empty nesters. This is bittersweet, we miss our kids a lot and their help with the ministry. But on the other hand we are delighted that they are doing well and still love our Lord.

The ministries: While I was away Sheila and the Millers had a vacation bible school for the kids of San Lorenzo, which was very well attended. During its peak day 80 children attended. San Lorenzo has had a month of heavy fiestas (partying for the saints) and we are seeing a need for a program that addresses the needs of those trapped in the snares of alcoholism and for those who are victims. The stats say Bolivia is #1 in alcohol addiction in South America, and the department of Tarija is #1 in addiction in Bolivia. We do have some faithful families coming to church, but the attendance of the youth has dropped off considerably and we are sensing God maybe now opening up a door to minister to those lives that are trapped by this very effective snare of the devil. I also started a course on Evangelism for the faithful who come on Wed night.

The ministry in Canasmoro is going well, we have seen a lot of growth in Adelma and some of the kids attending our Tuesday night services. But church attendance in Canasmoro and in San Lorenzo has been affected by the unusually cold weather we have been having.

We still continue to pray that the Lord will speak to someone's heart, to come along side us and help us in these ministries.

Please Pray for: Bro. Marcos Antonio to get serious with his relationship with God. For Bro. Aldo of San Lorenzo and Leinith from Canasmoro, that they would find victory after having stumbled this past week, Sharon's transition into College, for Brandon and his teams safety, for someone to help us in the ministry, also for wisdom and God's provision concerning us travelling back to the states in Dec. to meet Brandon on his return from Afghanistan, God's wisdom in starting this new ministry to those snared by Alcohol.

Praises: God's Faithfulness and your faithfulness and support, Brandon's safety.

For His Glory, Matt. 5:16.

Rick & Sheila Ackerman

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