



# The Blackburns

Mike, Leslie and Cameron

*Hello from the Blackburns,*

March/April 2025

We hope you all had an enjoyable celebration of our Lord's Resurrection. Being from the Bible Belt, it was somewhat of an empty feeling to not be surrounded by the proper wide-spread emphasis that Bible-believing churches put on the event in the US.

In our last letter, we had just begun our residency paperwork. In reality, we *could* still be waiting for that process to be completed, but God expedited every step, and we had our 3-year residency and carnets within 38 days of arriving in country!

There was a gasoline "shortage" for several weeks in March. We don't understand all that was behind that, but there could have been political manipulation involved. Some people were waiting in lines for as long as 24 hours to fill their tanks. You can imagine the toll this took on the economy and on those who need to commute or make their living by driving. We took this time to pray about what vehicle would best meet our needs. As soon as this crisis began to ease a bit, we moved quickly to purchase what we needed to be more independent in case things got worse instead of better. Being able to freely move about certainly boosts a person's sense of well-being in a foreign country.



*The gate post on the property needed to be fixed. Never hurts to carry a drill with you !*

We were able to see the beginnings of the restoration of a church about 2 hours south of Santa Cruz in the town of Abapó. The situation there was very sad. The church had been planted by a missionary some years ago who has since passed away. The church went through some major internal issues, presented a bad testimony to the community and, with the absence of strong leadership, was essentially abandoned about a year ago. When this was finally discovered, another local pastor expressed interest in reopening



*The property water source also needed to be fixed. The men came prepared to fix this after the service.*

the church. He and many from his congregation cleaned up the property and the dilapidated building. Several of us from the city drove down for the first service of the "new" church. With the distance being what it is, we are not able to attend regularly but we will assist by whatever means we can as that pastor works to reach the community near his own. Please pray that this new ministry will be fruitful, and that God would provide the right man to continue in a leadership role there.



*Part of the crowd that was present for the first service.*

**"...with one mind striving together for the faith of the gospel;" Philippians 1:27**





# The Blackburns

Mike, Leslie and Cameron

We continue to work on the Bible Institute materials with Robert Murray and we will see its launch very soon. This collaboration with local pastors will be vitally important to the growth of the local churches. It will allow many believers to have access to an opportunity to deepen their knowledge and understanding of our great God and His Word. Several pastors are very anxious to offer this additional teaching tool to their members. Meeting with them and presenting the materials is underway. Would you pray regarding the final preparations as well as the acquisition of the technological equipment needed?

We've recently visited the very first church plant that we had contact with back in 2018. Reminiscent of the building renovation that Mike helped with, he drilled the holes for their curtain rods. He helped canvass the area around the church in preparation for a Family Conference they had coming up. Amazingly, he met a young boy who he *first* met in 2018 as well.



*Meeting with two of the pastors interested in offering the Bible college courses to their church members.*



2018

2025



Mike & Yandel

As with any move, big or small, near or far, it takes some time to get settled. Among other things, electric wires across the top of our perimeter wall, additional lights installed in the kitchen, a water heater replaced, and after about 7 trips to the bank, we finally were able to open an account here. It's true what they say – it's a marathon, not a sprint – pace yourself! Thank you all for your support and prayers as we continue to settle in and serve.

*Sincerely,*

*Mike & Leslie Blackburn*

Serving With Church-Planters in Bolivia

*Visit "Blackburns to Bolivia"  
Facebook group for  
photos/detailed updates*

**"...with one mind striving together for the faith of the gospel;" Philippians 1:27**