



The Blackburns

Mike and Leslie

Hello from the Blackburns,
2025

September/October

Psalm 90:12 "So teach us to number our days, that we may apply our hearts unto wisdom."

When a country faces challenges that are so unfamiliar to those experienced in the US, we think it is worthy of mention. If you have been watching our Facebook updates, you may have noticed that a lot of what we have been sharing lately is about Bolivia's political and economic situation. We trust you are including this in your prayers.

The fuel situation has fluctuated several times this year. Mike decided to take advantage of the diesel lines where the truck drivers were sitting for hours, if not for days, waiting to get to the pumps to fill up. No one rejected an invitation to Heaven in the form of a tract from a nearby gospel preaching church.

In September we were able to assist a friend and his pastor coming to Santa Cruz on a house hunting visit. Mike enjoyed showing them the outskirts of the city and the church plants with which we are involved. This new missionary family plans to move to Bolivia within the next few months.

The Kids' Club in the Valparaiso neighborhood has been progressing well since the beginning of August. Weekly canvassing has brought in between 25 and 35 children each Saturday. One week we measured the organic attendance by NOT passing out flyers so we could see how many would attend without that reminder. While the number present was a bit lower, we were pleased to see those who did remember and seemed to have made this a part of their Saturday routine.

September 24th was Santa Cruz Day in Bolivia, a celebration of the Department anniversary. As an example of how we can help the outreach efforts of the churches, Bro Murray offered to provide invitations and supplies for them to cook and serve a traditional meal for any who would come to the church service. Three churches and the Kid's Club decided to participate in this special day. The meal that they served was Majadito Batido: rice with chicken or beef, onion, bell pepper, spices with a fried egg on top, served with fried bananas.

During this same time frame, we helped plan for a team of 12 coming from Anchor Baptist Church in NC. Like most teams coming to help, they wanted to be busy the entire time they were here. Their arrival was October 4th, just prior to another gasoline shortage that caused protests and roadblocks. For the safety of the team, the efficient use of everyone's time and effective ministry, some of the original plans for this team had to be set aside. Rather than traveling to other towns and villages, the team stayed close by the city and accomplished several other projects. Not long ago, we purchased a small deep freezer. This came in extremely handy since this seemed to be the month of supporting the chicken industry! Many kilos of chicken were purchased for the Majadito and a chicken sandwich meal that the Anchor team served to school children as one of their service activities. The team also expanded on Mike's "tracts for trucks" effort, by passing out care packages to those waiting in line. We pray God blesses the care shown for their well-being while they were trying to make a living and maintain the supply chain for the city.

We were able to assist with some of the planning for the annual Tabernacle Mission pastors conference which was held the first week of October this year. Pastors from all over Bolivia and 5 other countries were in attendance. God placed a burden within the heart of one man in attendance to start a children's club in a neighborhood farther outside the city. Supplies were purchased and helpers showed up to canvas. Their first

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



The Blackburns

Mike and Leslie

Saturday showed 40 children in attendance. This is why we are in Bolivia! To support the nationals as they reach their own communities with the gospel!

We took advantage of some ministry down time to return to Virginia to take care of a few issues that could not be properly addressed long distance. The nature of our ministry being "Helps" and the fuel shortage causing increased limitations on the ability to get around made this very doable and timely. Nothing was expected to change within Bolivia with the run-off election coming and protests increasing. There was suspected fraud with the election so that was causing additional unrest – understandably. Our plan was to spend just short of 2 weeks in the states. We were able to visit and update two churches within that time. After consulting with multiple sources, we decided to extend our stay in Virginia until after the inauguration of the new president. This enabled us to provide updates to two additional churches, receive some health care services, participate in the Virginia elections, and attend Military Appreciation Day at our home church.

The delivery of this letter should overlap our return trip to Bolivia. As usual, we will be packed to capacity with supplies needed or requested by others.

As always, we would covet your prayers as we continue to serve with the Murrays.

Sincerely,
Mike & Leslie Blackburn

Serving With Church-Planters in Bolivia

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



Preparing the chicken to serve
a lunch to the school children
near
Iglesia Bautista Vida Eterna.
Pastor Arturo is on the right.
The young men were a great help



Just short of 1500 Spanish gospel tracts
to carry back in our luggage.

Thanks to
Iglesia Bautista Buenas Nuevas of
Chesapeake Virginia

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