



The Blackburns

Mike and Leslie

Hello from the Blackburns,

July/August 2025

Time to update you once again from Santa Cruz, Bolivia. We're right at the end of our winter here, though one may not guess that with temperatures bouncing between 50 and 90 degrees. We've been enjoying mostly clear skies, but the crazy wind is something we remember from our first few visits to this country years ago.

After our medical clinic outreach in early July, Mike spent a second full week assisting with another medical clinic about 900 miles north of Santa Cruz. He helped receive the team here in the city then traveled with them to Riberalta. Every clinic is unique since the teams come from various organizations who all have different planning strategies, and each community has its own set of challenges. However, the goal is always the same – to give people the physical care that they need along with a clear presentation of the gospel so they can know how to have a relationship with God. Praise God for the souls saved during this opportunity!

During the last week of July there was a shift of focus to prepare for the launch of the Kids' Bible Club in a nearby neighborhood. We helped canvass the area by putting up posters and distributing invitations door to door. "Classroom" supplies were purchased and stashed at the meeting location. The first meeting was on August 2nd with about 15 children from the neighborhood. Attendance has been steadily growing as the national pastor and his family continue connecting with local families. In a few weeks, we will be asking the entire family of these children to join us for a meal. We hope this will help reenforce these connections.

Bolivia had their presidential election in August. It was very interesting to learn a bit about how this process works here, including the restrictions and obligations put on the citizens to participate. No single candidate met the requirement to win in this single election so there will be a run-off between the top two candidates. Bolivia has been under socialist influence for decades, so the fact that neither of these candidates is from the MAS (Movement for Socialism) party is encouraging for many people. We notice prices at the grocery store continue to creep up and the trucks in the diesel lines still sit waiting for days. It is predicted to "all get better" once the new president, whoever he is, gets into office.

Another exciting development is the progress with the Guaraní Bible and the John & Romans booklets. You might remember, permission to print the booklets was granted last year, but there was quite a delay in getting a digital copy of the text so it could be prepared for the printer. Even after finding the appropriate font to handle the unique diacritics of the language, there were significant portions that didn't transfer correctly. While we worked on the formatting and condensing to save pages of the final print job, Bro. Murray enlisted the help of several native Guaraní speakers to correct the mistakes and ensure that what is sent to the printer is the accurate text. We are waiting for a final read-through before sending it to the printer. Meanwhile an order for 5,000 full Guaraní Bibles has been placed and delivery is expected in 120 days! Several pastors in Guaraní communities are eagerly awaiting these. Many of you helped make this whole project possible through your giving—thank you so much!

We're always mindful of the role you play in our being here—through your prayers, giving, and encouragement. We thank the Lord for allowing us to serve here as your hands and feet on the field.

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



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Mike, Leslie and Cameron



Riberalta medical clinic with a visiting team from Operation Renewed Hope – over 1600 seen for medical-optical-dental with 300 of those putting their faith in Jesus Christ as their Savior.

Club Bíblico Valparaíso meets every Saturday at 3p.m.
See our facebook page for a weekly update.



Cresencio & Bernabé spent many hours with us to ensure the accuracy of the printed text for the Guaraní John & Romans booklets. The local census estimates there are 280,000 Guaraní speakers in Bolivia.

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