



The Blackburns

Mike, Leslie and Cameron

Hello from the Blackburns,

February 2025

We can also say “hello from Bolivia” now! We landed in Santa Cruz on February 1st and after a busy 3 weeks, we are as settled in as much as can be expected. House hunting, meeting with lawyers, and finding the best places to shop for different things are very new experiences even though we’ve been here many times. We are beyond blessed to have the assistance of Robert and Jessica Murray through this process. Your prayers over our last requests were answered in amazing ways! Thank you so much for praying for us as we packed and left the USA.

Since two of our sons were able to make the trip with us, we took advantage of their luggage allowance. Despite our best efforts, a couple pieces were overweight and one was oversized. The agent in Norfolk did not charge us any extra for those! The 3 flights and the connections were all good. Getting through immigration and customs was relatively a breeze since they briefly questioned the reason for bringing so many different items and only opened 2 totes. We did witness someone else getting their bag tossed all over their inspection table, so we are thankful for God’s grace in this area.

We went house hunting on the Monday following our arrival and found the house that God had “reserved” for us. Of course, this one is better than the one we thought was secured last fall. It’s never a mistake to trust Him with the unknowns! We had to outfit several rooms with split A/C units as well as update the existing units to more efficient ones. If we are to have guests in the summertime, there are a couple more rooms that will need units but that will have to come later.

The next day we took the necessary steps to start the residency process on this end. Now it is a waiting game while the paperwork makes its way through the proper channels. Once again, we have gracious brothers and sisters in Christ assisting us with the process. Adalid and Cira Pardo are pros at this and are walking with us through each step.

We did take some time while our sons were still here to do a bit of site-seeing and shopping with them. We want them to come back at some point so we couldn’t work them too hard! They were able to spend a week with us for which we were very thankful.

We have visited many stores and markets looking for the things we need to set up house. We did find a store that is offering a discount for paying with USD\$. That works out even better than the street exchange rate for us. We also found a local woodworker who is making some kitchen pieces to meet our need rather than buying “off the shelf”. Custom woodwork here is phenomenally inexpensive so we were happy to find him.

As we continue to settle in, we want to be used of the Lord as He sees fit. On the ministry side, we are assisting Bro Murray with whatever he has going on. Being between church plants does not mean there is nothing to do. A video-based Bible Institute effort is being put into place for the more remote churches to use to train their people in the Bible. Pray that this program will be a blessing to each church that takes advantage of the curriculum.

Thank you for your ongoing prayers for us and for the ministry here in Bolivia. Your faithfulness to bring us before the throne of grace means so much to us.

Sincerely,

Mike, Leslie and Cameron Blackburn

Serving With Church-Planters in Bolivia

Visit “Blackburns to Bolivia”

*Facebook group for more
detailed photos/updates*

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