



The Blackburns

Mike and Leslie

Hello from the Blackburns,

January/February 2026

We hope this letter finds you all healthy and fully engrossed in another year serving the Lord, in whatever capacity that He has asked of you. We are thankful to have seen a full year here in Bolivia, for what He has shown us, what we have learned about ourselves and about the ministry, and as well as the people here.

The new year started with a flurry of activity for us. The multiple hours of preparations in December leading up to a month of VBS were well worth the time spent going over every detail and gathering needed supplies. Here is the schedule with the attendance at each location. Photos/videos were posted in our Facebook group weekly.

January 2nd - with Iglesia Bautista Araigua – 40 children

January 8th – 10th with Iglesia Bautista Vida Eterna - 60 children

January 15th – 17th with Iglesia Bautista Sembrando la Buena Semilla - 45 children

January 22nd – 24th with a new kid's club in the Cumbre Estrella community - 55 children

January 29th – 31st with the current kids' club in the Valparaíso neighborhood - 40 children

These numbers were low for the churches compared to past years. There had been a kidnapping in the area with a tragic outcome, so parents were not allowing their children to walk around the neighborhood by themselves. God knew all these things before we began to think of the planning for these events.

These past couple of months have been fairly typical for the region. Here in the city, people seem to have recovered somewhat from the president's removal of the fuel subsidies. Other parts of the country are still experiencing varying levels of unrest. We continue to see gas lines on occasion due to slow deliveries. One day the line will stretch down the street and around the block; the next day there is no line at all. There was a contaminated gasoline situation resulting in engine damage for many. This was quite a severe situation for those who rely on their vehicle for income. Compensation has been offered but we hear it has been hard to apply for and slow in coming. We refrained from buying any gas for several weeks, using only our reserves in cans here at the house until it seemed to be cleared from the pumps.

A shipment of Spanish Bibles arrived at customs on February 13th, right before the Carnival holiday. The timing of the release from customs is unpredictable. We intended to stay home over that 4-day festival time to avoid the risk of physical harm or property damage. God had all that worked out. Two weeks later the shipment was cleared, and 4,480 Spanish Bibles were placed into storage, ready to be distributed across South America as the needs are determined.

The first 2 months of 2026 have been a prime example of the true ebb and flow of ministry while serving here. Mike has passed out just over 1300 tracts since the first of the year from the large intersection near our home. We have taken the opportunity to clean up around a couple of the nearby parks which have become extremely overgrown. We pray this sort of service will build rapport with the neighbors.

As we look back over VBS and the arrival of the Bibles, we are glad to be laborers in the field and expect to see God provide an increase from the sowing of His Word in these areas. Thank you for your partnering support that makes this all possible.

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