

Reaching Children in Bolivia



February 3, 2021



Praise the Lord! After much frustration with government and Child Defense workers who are dishonest and too lazy to do their job, we finally received 8 children in the orphanage! Granted, it was only for 11 days, but it was an important first step! The judge asked us to change a word in our NGO statutes so that we can receive children on a long term basis. We are processing that now. She suggested that we receive children temporarily for an evaluation of our programs and how we treat the children. It was exciting to receive children after such a long wait!

We had asked for seven boys but were sent four boys and four girls. They arrived in January but we had a second Christmas for them with Christmas trees and presents, and making ornaments and Christmas cookies. The children were thrilled! We had a Good News Club and crafts every day, and during the week all the children prayed to receive Jesus as their Saviour. Praise the Lord!!!

These children all come from abusive situations, and according to the Director of the Childrens' Defense they will be sent to us in the future. It was obvious that in the state home they generally do as they please with little or no discipline but when they really misbehave they may be hit by a shoe or put into a tiny empty cell with just a pop bottle for a toilet. When they escape they are beaten by police officers! You can imagine how heartbreaking it was on Sunday to have to return these children to this place where no child should have to live, especially when they all said they wanted to stay with us.

During our time with the children, we began to see changes in their behaviour. Two of the boys have serious anger issues. After an outburst, I told Harold that he has a lot of anger and rage inside and asked him



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who he was really angry at. He said he was angry at his father because he always beat his mother. We talked about how he needed to let go of the anger and ask God to help him forgive his father. I encouraged him to breathe deeply, count to 30 slowly and pray to not get angry. The second last day another boy hit and whipped Harold and he just walked (then ran) away. He was visibly shaken. I told him I was proud of him for his reaction, that it showed that God was working on him. He was also proud of

himself for not reacting in anger. How sad to send them back now when they need ongoing support.

I asked the children to draw and write about something they had done or learned, perhaps making salt dough ornaments or playing sports. Alvaro, who is the least obedient but sweetest with Grace and other small children, raised his hand and asked if he could draw a picture of Jesus hugging a boy and write about that. I said that would be wonderful, with tears in my eyes and a knot in my throat. Working with these children was challenging but also a huge blessing!

I do have some very sad news. The parents of the boys changed their minds. While we are so close to being able to receive children full time we cannot because we have no parents. Please pray that God sends the right parents soon, so we can get those children back and surround them with God's love on a regular basis.

Thank you so much for your prayers and support. May God bless you richly.

In His service,

Jose, April, Janessa, Timothy
and Grace Melgar

"But my God shall supply all your
need according to his riches in
glory by Christ Jesus."

Philippians 4:19

