

# SHALOM NEWSLETTER

THE MELGAR'S

Issued: January 2023



## Reaching Children in Bolivia

Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year! The last weeks have been extremely busy. After travelling to Lima Peru and on to Toronto, we arrived December 16th at our hotel in Barrie at 1 a.m. That day I renewed my driver's licence, arranged car insurance and got the utilities put into my name. The next day we moved into a townhouse in Orillia that the Lord had provided for our time here. Praise the Lord!

We were able to spend Christmas Eve with my Mom and Susan's family and then again with Dawson and Ruby as well on the 26th. It was planned for the 25th, but we were snowed in until the tractor cleared our road late in the afternoon. It has been lovely to spend time with family that we have not seen for over 5 years. Grace was particularly excited, exclaiming, "This is my first time seeing you! This is my first time!"

It is also Grace's first time seeing snow and she loves playing in it. She had fun tobogganing for the first time yesterday! She also enjoyed her first day of kindergarten. However, as much as she likes Canada she also misses her home and friends in Bolivia and occasionally gets very upset that she cannot go to her "other house". Pray that she will adjust well to all the changes, sometimes she cannot sleep at night. Pray also for Timothy and Janessa as they start high school in February, a huge change from homeschooling in the amazon!

Amidst all these changes and arriving to a townhouse with nothing of our own except summer clothing, we are extremely grateful to my sister for all her help in so many ways, as well as to certain cousins, friends and supporters who have donated furniture, dishes, clothes, coats and boots, t.v., and so many other things to make this move possible. We are forever grateful to you all, and we thank God for you.

Back in Bolivia, the orphanage is still running, but now there is only one girl there, Nahomi. Alexandra was reunited with her Aunt. Pray that she will remember the things she learned with us and that she will continue to follow after God. Pray also for Nahomi, that she too will continue to follow the Lord, ignore the boys' attention at school and make an effort to learn to read. Pray for patience and consistency for Kiara as she works with Nahomi daily to help her learn to read.



**Praise the Lord!**  
In December, Jose graduated  
with an Honours  
Bachelor in Theology



Pictured Here: Janessa, Grace, and Timothy

## Continued...



Please also pray that we can work out the ongoing situation with the judge. A lawyer for the provincial government is straightening things out. Once that happens we will be able to receive more children. Pray also for the parents for the boys' home. There is a pastor and his wife who are interested, and pray for God's guidance as to whether or not they are the right people for this ministry.

In the last months before returning to Canada we were able to make several visits to the Machineri and the two Yaminawa villages. All of the three Christian couples we knew in the Yaminawa villages had fallen into sin during the years of the pandemic when nobody visited them to encourage them. One of those couples has rededicated their lives to the Lord. Together with another lady who lives part-time in the village and part-time in the city they are trying to start a Good News Club with materials that we are providing. It is hard though because they do not know how to read very well (and cannot even write their names).

*Pictured Here: Nahomi, this is the first time she had ever received a present.*

In the Machineri village, we were not able to communicate with the former chief who had received the Lord as his Saviour because he has been living recently in Brazil. However, the new chief who came from Peru is a Christian (the only one in the village). Jose was able to baptize his wife Sarai, and we had hoped to marry them as well but could not coordinate it on time with the civil authorities. The chief, Fermin, is trained as a school teacher and after talking with us felt that his purpose for coming to Bolivia was to start a Good News Club in his village. We gave him some brief training and are providing him with materials for that purpose. For now, only his own children are attending but we are encouraging him to continue, trusting that other children will start attending. Pray that God will soften the hearts of the parents of the other children so that they might be allowed to attend.

Thank you so much for your prayers and support. If you would like us to visit you or your church, email us at [josapmel@yahoo.ca](mailto:josapmel@yahoo.ca). We look forward to seeing you! May God bless you richly.

***In His service,***

**Jose, April, Janessa, Timothy and Grace Melgar**



*Pictured Here: Fermin, Sarai and her children*



*And this is a small slice of the work of the Lord in their ministry in 2022. Praise God for His goodness and grace to this ministry and thank you for your support and prayers.*

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