

SHALOM NEWSLETTER

THE MELGAR'S

Issued: July 2022



Reaching Children in Bolivia

Praise the Lord!!! We finally have children in the orphanage! In the last few weeks, we have received two girls into the girl's home, after many ups and downs.

We had previously announced that Lorgio and Yovana would be parents for the boys' home, but then they changed their minds due to difficulties within their own family. It was devastating to have prospective parents change their minds again! But praise the Lord, Baldo and Kiara (see photo with children Aracely and Itam) have decided to be parents of the girls' home. Pray for them as they take on this challenging yet rewarding ministry.

We finished our paperwork that the judge for children and youth had asked for but really was not necessary. This judge is very complicated and insisted we needed certification from the state government while the government insists we are already certified and should have started functioning years ago. It became clear that the judge has no interest in sending children to our home. Thankfully, we found out that most Bolivian children's homes operate privately, accepting orphans or at-risk children through a contract signed by the nearest relative. So that is how we are operating at this time, though we may in the future receive children sent through the Childrens' Defence.

(From left to right: Aracely, Kiara, Baldo and Itam)

Pictured Here: Nahomi



Pictured Here: Alexandra



Nahomi, aged nine, (see photo above) is the first girl that we received in Shalom Orphanage. She had been abandoned by her parents to be raised by her elderly grandmother who is unable to care for her adequately. She has also been abused. Though she is technically in grade 3, she has had very little education and does not know her letters, numbers, colours or shapes. She did not even know her age. It seems she has some form of learning disability. Pray that she will learn quickly with extra support from us. Most of all, pray that she may come to know Jesus' as her Lord and Saviour.

Alexandra, aged seven, (see photo) came to us just ten days after Nahomi. Her father died when she was four, and shortly afterwards her alcoholic mother abandoned her to be raised by her grandparents. I cried as she shared about her experiences of abuse there when she was only a few months older than Grace! She is also behind academically. Alexandra is very open to learning about God. Pray for emotional healing for her and that she too will come to know the Lord as her personal Saviour. Both girls seem very happy to be with us.

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Two weekends ago we had a camp for children from the state home. While it was a time of many blessings, it was also sad to see the children we had hoped would be living in our orphanage and having to send them back to the state home again.

Pray for our continued work in the church, Sunday School, Awana, CEF Teacher Training, and missions to the Machineri and a town called Vera Cruz. Please also pray that we find the right parents for the boys' home so that we can receive boys as well.

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

In His service,

Jose, April, Janessa, Timothy and Grace Melgar



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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