

Reaching Children in Bolivia



December 2, 2025

Our three weeks in Canada were a great blessing as we visited family and spent Thanksgiving with everyone except Wes and his girls. My mother had a fall while we were there and has declined some since then. We are very thankful for all the support that Susan is giving her. The MSC workers conference and the missions conference were a blessing. It was wonderful to meet other workers and hear about how the Lord is working around the world. It was also important to learn more about missionary/third culture kids and the effects of trauma. We are currently spending time with Timothy (especially Jose) and hopefully grow as a family as we seek guidance and wisdom from professionals and especially from the Lord. Pray that God will work on Timothy's heart during this

time. Grace is getting really excited for Christmas, as you can see. Pray that through celebrating Christmas we will be able to help the Hogar Shalom children understand just how much God loves them.

The new parents for the boys' house struggled the first few weeks as the boys tried to push boundaries and take advantage of their kindness, but then things settled into place (see Roberto, Esdenka and Adaia at right). We have been pleased with their desire to teach the children about the Word of God and come up with their own activities to do with the boys when there is time. The boys are responding well to Roberto as a father figure as well.

Almost all the children did well in school this year and none of them had to stay for the extra week of reinforcement in order to pass their grade. That being said, Freddy and Alexa are still very behind at school. They both have difficulty learning, probably due to the extreme trauma they faced when their mother passed away in front of them. Pray that we will find a good psychologist who can help them in the coming school year (February).





While five year old Alexa improved a lot this year, especially at Hogar Shalom, she still steals a lot at school. Pray that she might come to know the Lord as her Saviour and have her life transformed as her brother Freddy did earlier this year (see Freddy and Alexa, left).

Pray for Johnny, Yolanda, James and Jill as they are adjusting to their mother not being there. Yolanda has expressed that she feels she has no value, and Johnny is sullen and rebellious at times as he is very angry at both of his parents for abandoning them. Pray that they too will come to know the Lord as their Saviour as He is the only one who can fill the void in their hearts (see left). Pray that all the children will learn to forgive the people that have failed them and hurt them, especially for Alison who really struggles with this.



We had the privilege of having Fionna, a missionary kid from another part of Bolivia, stay with us for a few weeks and help the younger children learn their numbers and alphabet while teaching the older children to crochet. She also played sports with them and helped them feel loved. She will be greatly missed.

Currently all the children are visiting relatives since the school year just ended. Pray for protection for them during this time, that there will not be any abuse or neglect while they are out of our care temporarily. Many ask why we allow them to return home, and it is necessary as the Bolivian government requires it.

Thank you so much for your prayers and support, we could not do this without you! If you feel led to contribute financially, our support is sent through <https://msccanada.org/donee/melgar-jose-april/> while donations for Hogar Shalom orphanage are sent through <https://msccanada.org/donee/hogar-shalom/>.

I pray that as we celebrate the birth of our Lord and Saviour, Jesus Christ, that you will find peace and healing whether it be physical or emotional.

May God bless you richly!

In His service,

Jose, April, Janessa, Timothy and Grace Melgar



"I am the Lord that healeth thee."

Exodus 15:26b

