

# Reaching Children in Bolivia



September 3, 2025

In the last months Jose has been far too busy. Ministry and administrative duties already keep him very busy, but due to the economic crisis in Bolivia and shortage of gasoline, he had to line up for several hours each day to get the small amount of gasoline that he was allowed to buy. Thankfully the gasoline situation has improved slightly, but the economic situation is still critical with prices soaring. The federal elections did not result in a winner, so in October there will be a second election between the top two candidates. Thankfully elections were peaceful this time. Janessa and Grace continue with their schooling and helping in ministry. Please pray for Timothy spiritually.



The new house parents for the girls' house are doing well, and the girls seem happy. They have committed to stay next year as well. However, we were having difficulties with the house mother for the boys. She was not fulfilling her duties, so she is leaving us. Her children will miss her as they will stay with us as she goes to Peru to look for work. The new couple that is coming are a young couple who truly seek to live in a way pleasing to the Lord. We have known them since they were in their early teens. They have a one year old daughter, Adaya. They prayed about this for nine months and feel that God is calling them to serve at Hogar Shalom. Pray for Sdenka and Roberto as they begin this ministry in mid October. And pray for the boys during this time of transition which can be difficult. We are thankful that Lorgio and Yovana, who worked with the boys before, are stepping in to fill the gap until the new parents can start.

Just last Saturday we received a new twelve year old boy into Hogar Shalom. His name is Juan Paulo. Since his single parent was working to try to scratch an existence for the family, he was starting to skip school and hang out with a bad crowd. He seems very happy at Hogar Shalom. Pray that he will come to know the Lord Jesus Christ as his Lord and Saviour.





On Monday we met with a depressed mother of seven children aged thirteen years to five months whose husband was imprisoned for “rebellion” for unknowingly not closing a case where he had been found innocent years ago. The mother is collecting bits of metal in the streets to sell to recyclers, but cannot possibly feed her children. And while she is working they are alone on a busy street so she could have them taken from her. Pray that our lawyer can find a way to get her husband out of prison quickly. Pray for this family. We may take in several of her children until the father can be released.

At our church anniversary, we organized the children to perform a play about the bronze serpent. Most of the children were the Hogar Shalom kids, and they did a fantastic job. Janessa and Grace used puppets to represent Moses and Eleazar and the other children acted out the Israelites, some having paper snakes tied to their legs. Even the shy children and those with difficulty in pronunciation were able to take part in their own way and they had a lot of fun doing it. The gospel message was presented clearly to the community and seeds were planted.

We will be back in Canada from September 23<sup>rd</sup> until October 13<sup>th</sup> so that we can attend an MSC conference for their workers. We will be able to spend Thanksgiving with family before returning back to Cobija. We are thankful for an opportunity to share about the ministry at a missions conference at a church in Markham that we have never been to before. Pray that it will be a blessing for all.

Thank you so much for your prayers and support, we could not do this without you! If you feel lead 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/>.

May God bless you richly!

In His service,

Jose, April, Janessa, Timothy  
and Grace Melgar

“How much better to get wisdom  
than gold, to get insight rather  
than silver.”

Proverbs 16:16

