

SHALOM NEWSLETTER

THE MELGAR'S

Issued: September 2023



While in Canada...

So much has happened since we arrived in Canada! Timothy is playing competitive soccer, Grace is in senior kindergarten and Janessa is in her last year of high school! Pray for her as she is struggling with a lot of pain and so far has no answers or medications to help. Thankfully Jose has been working, and I have been getting my health issues dealt with. I recently got off prednisone which was causing a lot of side effects, but now the pains of rheumatoid arthritis have returned. Please pray that we find a solution so I can return to Bolivia stronger and with more energy to serve the Lord in a greater capacity.

Throughout our time here we are in regular contact with Hogar Shalom and Good News Church. The last time I wrote, Nahomi was the only girl in the orphanage but now there are seven children! First, we need to explain who the house parents are. Baldo and Kiara were the house parents for the girls, but Kiara was having health issues and decided it was too much for her. At that point, Jose's mother Lola began looking after the girls' home. Shortly after that, Pastor Ruperto and his wife Adela came to be houseparents for the boys. Kenai and Donovan, ages twelve and eight, had managed (but they are now healthy) and had not been going to school for several years, so Kenai had to go into grade three and did not know how to read. He is now reading, pray that he might be able to catch up and join his proper grade level. Praise the Lord that Kenai and Donovan have both received the Lord as their Saviour!

Just this past weekend Miguel, aged 10, joined Kenai and Donovan. His father passed away and his mother left him and his two sisters (who we will see soon) with an elderly grandmother who cannot care for them. They are in their correct grades and seem to be adjusting well.

A few days after Kenai and Donovan came to us, their older sister Han Yung arrived with their six-year-old cousin, Keiko. After a few months. Han Yung's mother came to take her back. We are thankful that during her time at Hogar Shalom, she made a profession of faith and we pray that God will bring someone into her life to teach her more about Him. Keiko is learning to read. They were also joined by Miguel's sisters, Oriana aged six, and Sarahi aged eleven. Pray that God will work on their hearts as they hear His Word each day.

You may remember that we were asking for prayer for Nahomi who was not able to learn due to past trauma in her life. Praise the Lord she is beginning to read! She still has a long way to go, but we are thanking God for the improvements that we are seeing. We also discovered a natural talent that Nahomi has... painting! Lola began teaching the older girls how to paint flowers on tablecloths. I was so impressed when I saw Nahomi's flowers especially since it was her first time learning to paint! Hopefully this will help her self-esteem and perhaps when she is older she can use her talent to start her own small business!



Pictured Here: Lola and the four girls



Children reciting Bible verses at Church

Continued...

We currently have seven children that God has entrusted to our care. Pray for them that they may grow up to love and serve Him. We know another family of three children being raised by an elderly aunt who cannot care for them. They will hopefully come in December. But right now we are almost at our limit funding-wise. Please pray that God will provide the funding to receive these three children as well as other children living in dangerous situations that God will bring to us.

If you would like to join the Adopt a Child program, contact Mike Smith from Ennerdale Road Baptist Church, (416) 389-1768. Donations can be made through Ennerdale Road Baptist Church with a comment that it is for Shalom Orphanage or Melgar support.

Every year in August for their anniversary, Good News church has an evangelistic service. At the invitation, several of the adults in the community responded. One of them is Abigail, the next-door neighbour to Hogar Shalom. She is also the grandmother of the boy who accidentally hung himself a few years ago. In fact, seeing an inner strength in her daughter after that tragedy helped her to realize that it was God helping Rosario deal with her loss. Abigail recently had surgery and said for the first time she was not afraid because she knew her life was right with God. Pray that she will recover fully and will grow spiritually as well. Rosario just started this month as the cook for Hogar Shalom so that the house mothers can dedicate more time to the children under their care.

Thank you for your prayers and support. If you would like us to visit you or your church, call us at (705) 279-5927 or email us at 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:
Doctor attending the Children**



To view more photos of the orphanage and children, please scan the QR code or visit: www.ennerdalechurch.com/shalom/photo-gallery-1/



Ruperto & Adela, with the three boys



Children at Church



Kenai helping make bread

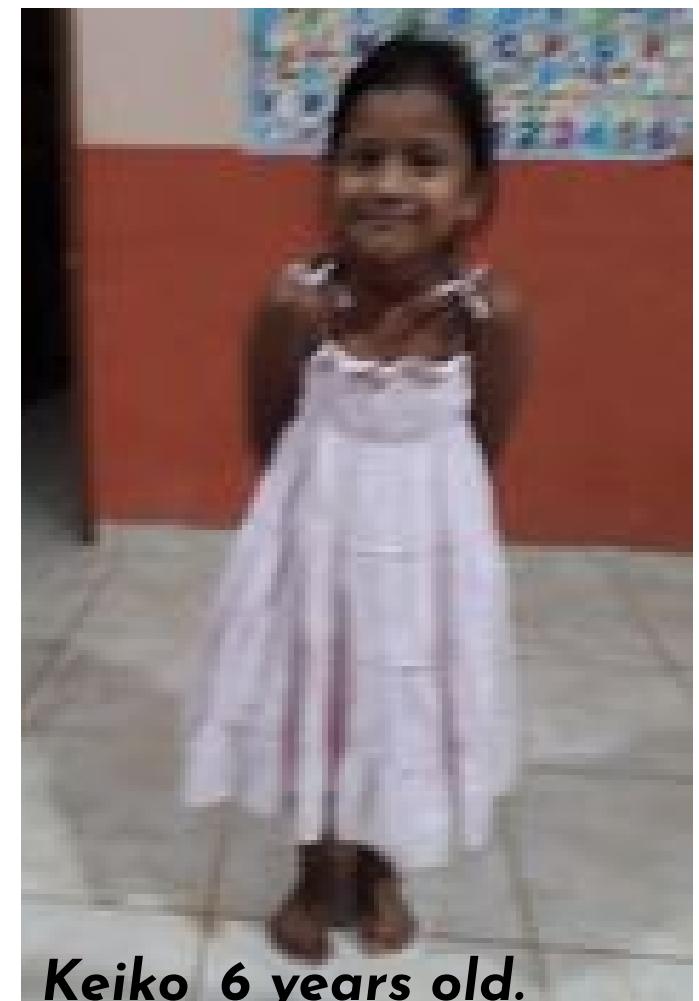


The girls studying

And this is a small slice of the work of the Lord in their ministry in 2023. Praise God for His goodness and grace to this ministry and thank you for your support and prayers.

Contact Information : Shalom.orphanage.bolivia@gmail.com | erbchurch@yahoo.ca

Photos



Keiko, 6 years old.



Sarahi, 11 years old



Miguel, 10 years old.



Donovan, 8 years old.



Kenai, 12 years old.



Oriana, 6 years old.



To view more photos of the orphanage and children, please scan the QR code or visit:
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SCAN QR



Oh, give thanks unto the LORD, call upon his name: make known his deeds among the people.
Psalm 105:1

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