

Reaching Children in Bolivia



September 23, 2024



It was wonderful to return to Bolivia and see Timothy! He is in a soccer tournament where his team is undefeated. He is hoping they will move up to the A level. Janessa is currently in another city with her cousin for a photography event. It is her first time away from home, and we are very proud of her. Praise the Lord, a new medication for her joint pain is helping. Grace is happy to see her friends here, but missing friends and family in Canada. Bolivia has been suffering from bad air quality as ranchers burn their land and fires get out of control. Pray for enough rain to put the fires out and clean the air; it is sometimes difficult to breathe and causes sore throats, a cough and unbearable heat. Pray also for the political unrest in the country.

Just after arriving in Cobija, our church celebrated its anniversary. Two men were baptized and married their wives who were baptized a few years ago. One of those men was Jordano, the father of Jhon who accidentally hung himself several years ago, and whose wife is the cook at Hogar Shalom. It is such a blessing to see how God has worked in his life. Before he was a womanizing alcoholic who abused his wife. He testified how God has really changed his life and he now reads and studies his Bible an hour or more a day. His mother-in-law, recognizing the changes, told me that she hopes next year it will be her getting baptized and married! Also, one girl from the community and Kenneth, the oldest boy from Hogar Shalom were baptized (Please note that under MSC Canada, for security reasons, we cannot publish the real names of the children in our ministry). A few other children from Hogar Shalom also want to be baptized, so we will be having some discipleship classes and possibly more baptisms!

Please pray for the right parents for Hogar Shalom. The parents for the boys want to leave at the end of this month and the man who was interested just cancelled last night. We do have a single Mom for the girls' home. Pray that God will guide us in these important decisions. Pray for Natalie, the girl who



<https://www.facebook.com/ShalomBoliviainfo/>

finally learned to read with us, as she was taken home by her father and wants to come back. Pray for protection for her and spiritual help, pray that her family might return her to us. Several children want to come to Hogar Shalom, pray for guidance and funding to receive them all.

While we are still sent out by our home church, Ennerdale Road Baptist Church, we are now missionaries under MSC Canada, a mission that provides all the legal work to help local churches send out missionaries. Ennerdale has enclosed a letter to explain it in better detail. Pray that our supporters will soon transition to sending our support and donations for Hogar Shalom through MSC Canada. Our support is sent through <https://msccanada.org/donee/melgar-jose-april/> while donations for the orphanage are sent through <https://msccanada.org/donee/hogar-shalom/>.



We were pleased to hear that some German missionaries did a camp for the machineri children while we were in Canada. An American couple is also now here in Cobija working with indigenous groups and will be holding a course called Orality where oral Bible stories are taught to indigenous people who cannot read and write so that they are memorized and can be taught to others. We will be visiting the Yaminawa and Machineri people soon to encourage some of them to attend. The course will be held October 29th to November 2nd and will give an overview of the New Testament in 20 stories. Please pray that many people will attend and that many lives will be touched through this course.

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

In His service,

Jose, April, Janessa, Timothy and Grace Melgar

“Trust in the LORD with all thine heart; and lean not unto thine own understanding. In all thy ways acknowledge him, and he shall direct thy paths.”

Proverbs 3:5,6

