

Hello to all my friends from Talita Cumi! We are sorry it has been such a long time since we last updated you. Life here has been very busy. Read below to find out why.

The first thing I would like to say is Praise God! On the 13th of November, God placed into our hands the keys to the new house for the boys.

The kids, the aunties, friends, and the board of directors are all very happy that God has continued to use people with generous hearts to complete the plan and purpose of each child and teen here at T.C. We are thankful for your prayers and support for everyone here at Talita Cumi. We have already begun reconstruction on the new house to make it bigger and ready to add a second floor in the future.

We had a service to thank God for this grand blessing. So even though we still need more money for the house, we trust that He will continue to provide. At the end of this letter I will mention to put this in your prayers, ok?

Other news; the children are enjoying summer vacation right now. This is good for them, but a little more work for us☺, but don't worry we have already made a plan for them over vacation. Five of the teenagers Wilma, Beatriz, Alexander, Gabriela and Teofila are taking classes in keyboarding, and computers. These students were our best students last year and earned the chance to take these special classes. The other children have been passing their vacation time in art class with the Aunt Heidi; the rest of the day is spent with a hired tutor to keep the kids on tract with their math and their other subjects. Most of the children are behind in their studies and want to catch up. In the afternoons a friend from church has been teaching the girls traditional folk dancing. Our big kids have just finished a course at the Centre of Life clinic. This class was very important for our adolescents everyone who attend the "abstinence" course made a commitment to staying pure until marriage. Each teen was presented with a silver ring with the word purity engraved on it with the date inside. The teens received a special blessing and a special celebration dinner on New Years Eve.

We worked hard up until Christmas on painting scarves embroidering, and other manual work to prepare for the Christmas sales. The kids are also learning some music with our new volunteer, Shelly Horst from Mennonite Central Committee. She arrived in October and is here through July. We are very thankful the help that she will bring.

We know it's, true, we could use an update for our web page. But there is hardly enough time to redue everything. We know this is very important to you, so we will get on that as soon as we

Our good friends the Beams planned another wonderful Birthday party for our kids whose birthday fell in November and December. All the children look forward to their Birthday because they know Tia Vanessa and Tio Danny will plan a special party for them, we can't thank them enough for this Blessing.

Something else that is dear to me that I would like to mention is how the teens are getting more confident and excited about sharing the gospel with other people, especially their classmates at school. For the past couple of months the teens have been meeting every Friday to have a bible study. About twenty kids from ages 15-18 come. But one

weekend the kids planned a “Welcome to Summer Vacation” party where there was 39 and 27 for a total of 66 kids that attended that night. We were short on popcorn and seats, but it was very fun. My brothers gave a little music concert and one group of my friends presented a modern dance that the kids loved but what was more important is that the word of God was planted in the hearts of the kids.

The month of December we went on a few get aways! We were able to take all the kids to Las Cuevas to spend the day with our friends from California who brought the house next door. We enjoyed the waterfalls and played some soccer and basically enjoyed some time outside of the city. This is a blessing to give the opportunity to see some of the Gods beauty in their own country. We also had a day where the kids went to different Christian homes so the volunteers and staff could spend a day together in a beautiful place to have a meeting and enjoy a time of fellowship. The home we were invited to had so many mangos that we brought about 300 back for the kids!

A few weeks ago, had the opportunity to go to a large pool with our friends from the orphanage Stansberry Children’s Home. We enjoyed the day, but it appears that we all ate something bad, because the next day everyone was sick! Thankfully it only lasted a day, and we are all back to normal now.

Christmas and New Years brought some wonderful memories that we will all remember.

God has blessed us this year with gifts for the children. A large petroleum company came to the home with gifts for everyone each child received a toy.

Our Church Family in California generously gave each child a beautiful new pair of American sneakers and a treasure too. A missionary teacher here had surprised the kids with a new article of clothing. We were so blessed we pray that the givers of these Good gifts are blessed too!

Christmas Eve was beautiful; we had a traditional late night dinner with many friends who are close to the kids and the home. The lights and candles and the HOT weather gave everyone a glow. We enjoyed music from the kids who sang as well as a beautiful violin duet from two sisters Patty and Sarah, who were here visiting their family. Before everyone left for their homes, we all hugged and kissed everyone, thanking them for their friendship and wishing them God’s blessing.

New Years was also special because the older kids planned a great party with their friends. So that they could enjoy a safe, alcohol free party here at Talita Cumi. In attendance at the party were about 50 teenagers. We had music, dramas, dancing, piñatas, sparklers, and not to mention some good food. We are amazed and so thankful for the past year and we pray that the New Year will bring us change for the better.

Right now it is a little sad for us, but at the same time we are also filled with joy. We have said goodbye to some of our kids who have called Talita Cumi Home for along time: Limberg, Moisés, Sandy, and Guillermo. We believe there will be a few more soon that will soon be leaving: Maida, Gina, and Juan Gabriel. They are going to return to their families. This is very good, thanks to God! So please remember them in your prayers that the Lord could continue to guide their lives. Talita Cumi will enlarge its heart and open the doors for new children in the near future, we pray that these children

in need, will discover the s love of God, discover hope through Jesus Christ, and be blessed under our care and Gods Holy Spirit.

Please join us in prayer with these requests:

- For a very special couple to live with the boys as house parents.
- For the kids that God has placed here in our care today and the future.
- Financial support; we need money for construction of the second floor of the new house.
- And for each of the kids to continue to grow in Christ.

God Bless you in 2006 always!

With, Love,

Graciela Alba
Directora del Hogar Talita Cumi
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