

Hello from Talita Cumi! I hope you are all doing well as 2006 is well underway. As usual, we are very busy but enjoying life here at home in Santa Cruz, Bolivia where it is very hot as we are in the middle of our summer!

In January we enjoyed some special Birthday celebrations. I had my birthday on Jan. 8th and we celebrated with a wonderful party. Celebrating special occasions with those that are close to the home is something that I love very much. A few days later I was surprised when the staff gave a party for Marisol and I. Later on in Jan. we had a big Birthday celebration for all the Dec. and Jan. birthdays at the home of the Beams family. Thanks again to them for their wonderful hospitality.

We received another blessing when we were given special blankets for each of the children from a work group with connections to Heidi Janceke (one of our board members who helps us in many ways). Now each child has a beautiful comforter for their bed. They add a touch of bright color to each room. We are so thankful for the generosity of this group.

January brought us an opportunity to have a special day for all the children and staff and friends of the home along with 4 other orphanages in town on the grounds of the Stansberry Children's Home. There was worship, a puppet show, and then each home had the opportunity to give a special presentation. We dressed in traditional Santa Cruz costumes and danced a Camba Dance ( native to the Santa Cruz area). Then a message was given about how Jesus is always with us. After lunch the kids enjoyed relay games, water games, and soccer. It was a wonderful time for the children to play with and get to know other children their own ages living in similiar circumstances as well as to hear the Word of God.

There are some new faces around here. Gustavo is 5yrs. old and is attending Kindergarten. His sisters, Juan Carla (7yrs) and Fernanda (13yrs.) are here as well. They have all adjusted well and we are happy to have them as part of the Talita Cumi family.

Another big adjustment for us was the beginning of school on Jan. 30th. Most of our kids attend school in the morning until lunch and a few go in the afternoons. It has been good getting back into the schedule of school but trying to pay for all the books, notebooks, pencils, pens, and t-shirts for gym classes has been a challenge. We are very thankful for the tutoring help we have from a teacher who comes in the mornings. We hope she will be able to help us all year. We also have a new volunteer that will be coming on Tuesdays and Fridays to help us for a few months.

Februrary passed quickly with a break from school for Bolivian holiday of Carnival on the 27th and 28th. Unfortunately we were not able to go on any special trips but we did some special things around the home to celebrate in a way that brought honor to the Lord Jesus.

Our biggest news is the new boys home is being built next door!!! We are excited about the new possibilities God will bring through this home. By the beginning of April we will be able to move in!! Praise the Lord!

Please remember to pray for us, that we would always remember that God is always in control. Also, please pray for the following specific requests.

1. For a couple to live and work with the boys in the new house.
2. For the construction to continue smoothly and for the boys who will live there as well as for the economic resources to complete the 2nd floor.
3. For Fanny (she is disabled), that we would have the funds to pay for special medical treatments that she requires.
4. For each of the children as they have started school. That the Lord would provide the funds to purchase their school materials.
5. For the children who have left the home to return to their families.
6. For the children who are in process of returning to their families.
7. For the workers and volunteers, that God would bless them and give them continual energy.

With Love in Christ,

Graciela Alba

Director of Talita Cumi Children's Home

Santa Cruz, Bolivia