

TALITA CUMI

SPRING 2020 NEWS

He took her by the hand and said to her, "Talita cumi!"
which means, "Little girl, I say to you, rise up!"
-Mark 5:41-

Hurrah-Talita Cumi turned

19

Last March, Talita Cumi celebrated 19 years of service to the children of Santa Cruz! Director Inocencia Ortiz would like to thank all of those who support the children at the home:

I thank God for your lives, and thank each one of you for the heart that you have of wanting to share with our children and adolescents who have been abandoned by their parents, but not by God. Thank you to the sponsors, the donors, those who support us with their prayers, and those who in some way are involved in this ministry that God uses to lift up many lives. Your service in the Lord is valuable, of great esteem, and taken into account in the kingdom of heaven because God never forgets all that you have done for Him: in this case, helping the children at the home, so that they can have the opportunity to feel loved, accepted, and important to God. The knowledge that there is someone who thinks about them, fills them with joy.



I am thankful to the sponsors for dedicating time to write the children. They pray for you and there is no one with whom they would rather be when their sponsor is visiting the home. We encourage the sponsors to write notes of encouragement to their children, especially now during the pandemic. God does not miss anything and is not oblivious to any circumstance, no matter how difficult. Absolutely everything that you have done for God is kept in his Book and He will give a reward in his time.

With love,

Inocencia Ortiz

The Era of Coronavirus

On Sunday March 22, Bolivia entered into a government-mandated total quarantine in an effort to stop the spread of COVID-19. The termination date is set for April 15, although this could be extended depending on the circumstances. Practically speaking, the total quarantine means that Bolivians are prohibited from leaving their homes on the weekends, and only one person from each household is permitted to leave his or her home for a few hours one day per week to purchase groceries and medicine. Thank God, all of the children and tías at the home are in good health. The home is abiding by a list of health measures in order to keep the children safe. Since the children cannot leave the home, the tías have been working overtime, keeping the kids on a daily routine of two hours of homework, recreational activities such as soccer, volleyball, card games, LEGOs, letter writing to sponsors, and documentaries about the animal kingdom. The girls even memorized Psalm 23!



The Lord is my shepherd, I lack nothing. He makes me lie down in green pastures, he leads me beside quiet waters, He refreshes my soul. He guides me along the right paths for his name's sake.

Even though I walk through the darkest valley, I will fear no evil, for you are with me; your rod and your staff, they comfort me. You prepare a table before me in the presence of my enemies. You anoint my head with oil; my cup overflows. Surely your goodness and love will follow me all the days of my life, and I will dwell in the house of the Lord forever.

PSALM 23



Please... keep the children and the tías in your prayers, the kids are a little stir crazy being confined at the home and the tías are doing their best to stay creative, energetic, and patient.

CAMP 2020

In February the children attended a couple of church camps. Praise God, a number of the kids experienced God's miraculous presence and returned to the home spiritually renewed.

CAMP TESTIMONIES

Ana says, "At camp we played games, we did theater, and I learned about the Word of God. I learned that we should love the people who are around us. At night we praised God in song. I had a good time and I liked the camp. When I was at camp, I felt more free to talk with God, and to worship him and pray. I didn't feel that way before camp when I couldn't do that. "

Geraldine shares, "When the pastor asked us to come to the front, I was the only one who went. I asked for forgiveness for my sins. After that I was happy because I am a daughter of God and He always takes care of us and is with us. I asked Jesus to come into my heart. God never fails to give us our daily bread. When we leave somewhere and go somewhere else, He is always with us. He is also taking care of us and watching over our home. "

worship - prayer - presence



Together

Ana: (second from the left)
Geraldine: (far right)



Christmas 2019

The annual Talita Cumi Christmas party was held December 23. It was a much-anticipated event, with Tía Clare and some of the older girls making over one hundred cupcakes and dozens of sugar cookies the weekend before. The day of, the children scurried around, cooking, decorating, and preparing for the celebrations. That evening as the guests arrived, the children were in their fanciest outfits and everyone shared hugs and expressions of joy. The program was varied with groups of children performing songs, readings, and a skit. The tías also performed Oh Come all Ye Faithful. There was plenty of food and conversation as the evening wore on. It was a wonderful time to connect with old friends, hear the Christmas message, and eat!

The Christmas season also included a large government-sponsored party with Calle 7, a local television group. There were speeches by government officials, dancing and music, snacks, and gifts. December also saw several smaller parties hosted by local groups and charities. They enjoyed the songs and activities the groups led them through. The children were also able to participate in Christmas activities outside of the home, staying with tías and members of the community. We are grateful for all the ways the children were able to experience God's love and joy that Christmas season.



Happy
Birthday

Prayer Requests

Maríel left the home in December. Her brother Matías continues to live at Talita Cumi. Pray that both children will continue to adjust well and thrive where they are.

Cristian is having a tough time this year, struggling with motivation for his school work, as well as smaller daily struggles. Pray that the therapy he is receiving and the loving care of the tías will encourage him.

The tía in charge of the girls' house has made the decision to step away from Talita Cumi. Please pray for a smooth transition for the girls and for God to inspire a kind, strong, and godly woman to fill her shoes and act as mom for the girls.

RECENT BIRTHDAYS

Jan. 3: Yamile (12 yrs.)

Jan. 14: Benjamin (10 yrs.)

Jan. 31: Juan Pablo (13 yrs.)

Feb. 23: Lizarely (11 yrs.)

Feb. 23: Carla (5 yrs.)

Feb. 28: Geraldine (13 yrs.)

March 10: Yamil (9 yrs.)

March 28: Rosario (10 yrs.)



BACK TO SCHOOL



Before the total quarantine took effect, the children had started back to school in February.

Erica Bustillos is our new tutor, helping provide one-on-one support to those students who need extra academic help.

The group that works independently on their homework has grown significantly since last year. This is an item of much praise and thanksgiving. There are now 11 kids able to take responsibility for their own school work, with the overarching support of Tía Silda.

There are five children in the intermediate group. They are working with Tía Maria to become more responsible and independent. They hope to transition to the larger group soon.

Our youngest pupil, Carla (5 years old), has begun attending school in the afternoons and she is enjoying the experience. She is eager to be like the older kids with their school books and homework. She is doing well in class.



The Bolivian school year started in February.