



Bolivia Short-Term Mission 2018

Newsletter #2

24 August, 2018



Activity Log

Day 3 (22 August 2018)

0715 Water problem fixed

0950 Electricity fixed (x2)

1000 Bible Drama Rehearsal

1340 Lunch with April and family in orphanage

1515 Painting work

2015 Discipleship meeting

2220 Debriefing and prayers



Day 4 (23 August 2018)

0925 Depart from orphanage

1005 Visited the Pedro Villalobos Natural History Museum
1200 Walked to Brazil and arrived at Brasileia for lunch
1500 Visited the State House
1820 Arrived back at the orphanage for dinner
22:35 Debriefing and prayers

The Mission Field

by **Michael** on August 24

It is the third morning waking up in the orphanage house. We are two full days completed in Cobija after two days of traveling .

I am first struck by the routine, or lack of one. Things here happen when they happen compared to what I am used to with a tight schedule. This was one of the things April first had to accept when coming here. That said, once they happen I am struck by the sense it is all done in God's timing. Even this morning, our plans have already been thrown off as April is suffering pain and they think it is a kidney stone. Jose is taking her to the hospital to get looked at and depending on what they do and how long, we will see how Friday progresses. Pray for April.

We have seen their discipleship group ministry and their work at the State Home. I find it interesting to see the how the groups compare. The Discipleship Group, while young as believers, show an impressive commitment. Jose and April have ministered to this group for over five years and the time investment shows. Much can be accomplished with this group. They are hungry to serve the Lord. The State Home is a different style of ministry and presents challenges. Many of the kids

were new or not completely familiar with Jose and April. They were curious and had much fun but they do not receive a consistent exposure to the message of God's love or do they see it exhibited to them on any sort of regular basis. This is a challenging but badly needed and their commitment to the kids shines through.

In such a short time we have seen seemingly so much! I look forward to God's provision as the trip progresses.



Memorable Moments

by **Julia** on August 24

In a blink of an eye, we are in day 5 of the STM trip and third morning at the Orphanage Home. It's been adventurous over the last couple days as every day there are new surprises and challenges. Man can plan everything to their best ability but in the end, we have to entrust all things in God's hand. Many memorable moments, thanksgivings, and lessons were learned.

First lunch at the orphanage home: our first lunch was a marathon lunch; it lasted for almost 4 hrs. Obviously, it was supposed to be a simple dish - French fries and meat sauce. But I learned nothing is simple here. For the frying pan, we got a metal basin and that definitely did not work well with the portable gas stove. And so, our lunch turned into a marathon lunch. We started frying french fries at 12:00 pm and two hours later, we are still cooking and we end up finish cooking three and half hours later. Lesson learned: Don't cook modernize meals with primitive resources.



Discipleship meeting: The disciple meeting was held at night around 8pm. Though it was pretty dark outside, the moon is pretty bright and I felt that God was leading our path. We sat in a circle with about 13 people with mostly adults and some teens. I was impressed, not only because brothers and sisters brought along with their own bible and training notes, they were singing hymns with enthusiasm even when there was no piano and no hymn books. They were quiet at the beginning but very friendly and willing to socialize with us even with our limited Spanish with our hand languages.

State Home visit: We met over 30 children which is about 75% of the children living in the State Home. They ranged from age 2 to 15. These children were supposed to be at their worry free ages and a precious jewel to their parents. Behind each innocent face, there was a sad story. It was heartbreaking to hear what some of these children went through. The physical scars were hard to heal. Only Jesus Christ's sacrificial love

and the heavenly hope can help to rebuild them, lead them on the right path, and help them overcome their internal scars and the filthiness they feel.

Thank you for all your prayers. Please continue praying for us to open our eyes and experience the joy of giving. Please pray earnestly for April for as she is currently at the hospital to check where her kidney stones are. Nevertheless, in such a condition, she is still providing us instructions and giving us our duties so our work will not be at paused. Pray for Jose as he now needs to run even more errands.

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Get Ready And Buckle Up Your Seatbelts. (oh wait there are no seatbelts)

by **Bonnie** on August 24

Adventurous moment - we rode in our own “specialty” Bolivia mine buster (reference to one of Canada’s wonderland wooden ride). We sat in wooden chairs placed at the rear of an open truck. There was no straps to keep the chairs in place, the only strap we had were our arms. The ride gave us a chance to see the beautiful town of Cobija and we were able to feel like tourists. But in reality, we were a bigger attraction to the locals and MANY people were staring at us as we passed. Some police were dressed as clowns to fundraise and two of them even jumped into our mine buster!!!



Touching - We visited the state home and saw a lot of kids. Most of these kids come from broken families; many are often abused physically and emotional and are still being abused and raped in the state home. Some of the kids even witnessed their father stabbing and killing their mother. They remember every detail and recall the events chronologically. There were cry's for help but no one wanted to help. We are so fortunate in Canada with loving Christian families and friends. I want to share what God has given me at such a young age to these lost children, although I can't do much, I know I can show them love and they can see Jesus's love through me.

Bonding - After a long hot day, we all went for ice cream :) As we settled down in the orphanage we played some card games. Everyone arranged a rebellion against me because they thought I was too good. They were so excited every time they beat me and we were all easily able to bond and get comfortable with each other! I feel like God

handpicked us as we have our own strengths and weaknesses, but when we all work together, we blend seamlessly. It is truly the grace of God. I hope we will continue to have a great time together serving Him. Buenos!

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Experience and Sharing

by **Richard** on August 24

Cold shower, it's good! - After a few hours of hard works in the orphanage (ie scraping, sanding and painting the walls), a cold shower is what we enjoyed.

Sweet fellowship - discipleship class on the outside porch of the house of Brother Ruben and Sister Patricia (first couple "parent" of the orphanage) with sharing from Edwin, Dahron and Anthony. We had a very sweet fellowship time with one another (and lots of mosquitos and a "big" moth sitting beside us). Even though we speak different languages living in different countries, we felt the love among brothers and sisters in our Lord Jesus Christ.

Spanish to Portuguese - Jose and April took us to visit the city of Cobija, and from there we have gone to another country, Brazil on foot!

"Por qué estamos aquí" - This is the line in our drama when the Israelites complained to Moses in the wilderness. We had a visit to the State Home (with poor living condition) and met about 40 abandoned or abused children. A good program with hymns, Gospel message with drama and games was done among the children. This first-hand

experience makes us to understand the heart of the missionaries in bringing the Gospel of Jesus Christ to these children.



Another “Unexpected” - Early Friday morning, Jose had to take April to the hospital due to the severe pain from her kidney stones problem the night before. Schedules may have to be changed according to April’s condition. Of course, the “expected” injuries and sicknesses (i.e. cuts and tummy grumpy) are happened to us everyday.

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Prayer Requests

1. April’s recovery and pain relief from her kidney stones problem

2. Thanksgiving:

- Meeting the brothers and sisters in the Lord in Bolivia soil
- Opportunities to work with the missionaries to understand the heart of our Lord in Missions

3. Tribal visit with Drama on Saturday (Aug 25) - safety and energy on this “long” trip

4. Sunday (Aug 26) sharing by Richard (Gospel message) and baptism - estimated 60-80 people.

5. Rapid recovery from various injuries of different STM members.

[MORE PHOTOS](#)



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