

Greetings from Bolivia!

“I almost didn't come back . . .” Jonathan said, after his recent trip to Bolivia. “It is such an encouragement to see the work continuing and



Entrance to the CIC's newly completed building.

growing despite financial difficulties and limited resources.” In this issue you can travel along with Jonathan and see what he saw first-hand in Bolivia.

First stop, the Cochabamba International Church: In our last update we told you the exciting story of how the local congregation all pitched in to help build the church. Less than



90 days after they started, it was done. Now they can seat more than 300 people at one time! There is still work to be done in terms of the air conditioning and acoustics (donations welcome), but they are very close and the building gives the church a real sense of place and stability.

Our Three-Year Plan

One of the tangible benefits of this trip was to work with Juan in nailing down a plan for the next three years. We developed both short and



long-term goals for Viva Bolivia and for VBPS. One exciting change is that we are going to be

Bolivia Trivia

How many pounds can a children's swing at Valle Hermoso support without breaking?

- A. 50 pounds
- B. 100 pounds
- C. 150 pounds
- D. 200+ pounds

(See page two for the answer.)

offering more free help for the groups we serve through VBPS. Normally, we charge \$15 per hour to provide legal and accounting services to the small businesses and charities we serve. However, for the next few years we are budgeting grant funds to help offset these costs for a few select organizations. Our goal is to offer at least 10 hours each month covered by grants from Viva Bolivia. And, as more funds are available we hope to increase this number.

If you would like to sponsor services for a specific group in Bolivia, just let us know. Our specialty is to help with the critical process of establishing and maintaining a strong foundation for service and a good reputation in Bolivia.

FreeHands' New Location

One of the groups we have long partnered with is FreeHands Ministry. This group helps to provide life and job skills training to women and even helps with childcare during the day. FreeHands recently moved to a new location where they are providing training in handicrafts, food preparation, restaurant management and small business management.



The new handicraft workshop with three ladies sewing.



FreeHands' new location is right off a main street and at mid-day you will find their small restaurant packed full with hungry clients!

Valle Hermoso—Next Steps

Jonathan had the pleasure of spending a day at Valle Hermoso. There was great food, fun catch-



Margarita, the director, tells about the land (just behind her) that they are wanting to purchase for a new teen home.

ing up and a rousing game of soccer. The home continues to be a light in the community and they are now planning to purchase some adjacent land to build a transitional home for teens as they attend college and develop job skills before being completely independent.

Shirley, one of the young ladies from VH, has quite a talent for art. Here she is showing off one of her window paintings. She and three other students from VH attended a special training program in Cochabamba. Each specialized in one area including: computer training, food preparation, sewing and, of course, art!



Bolivia Trivia Answer:

D. 200+

Jonathan and Claudia test out the swings at Valle Hermoso. While there was some fear in the eyes of onlookers, the swings held strong!

