

March 2003

Dear Friend of Valle Hermoso:

A lot has happened in the last four months! Most importantly, the orphanage now has its own home. With the help of the Norwegian supporters, we bought a house in October 2002. The entire lot is about 1,000 square meters. We have been busy with all kinds of construction jobs: installation of electrical wiring, new septic tank, new water tank and tower, new laundry room and storage room, railings for the dormitory stairways and 2nd floor walkway, leveling the courtyard and building stairs from the upper yard to the courtyard. Thanks to God and many hard-working hands, work moved forward quickly. The big moving day was December 21st. Everyone had butterflies as we prepared for the move. This moving day was the beginning of a new phase for the orphanage.

Christmas Eve was celebrated at Valle Hermoso along with the children of the Oruro orphanage. Including the adults present, there were 40 of us at dinner! It was exciting for the children from the two orphanages to meet each other, as they don't often get the opportunity to do this. There was much laughter in the air as the children played games in the courtyard. It was proof again that children are the same all over the world when they feel safe and cared for and are able to be themselves. The children in the orphanage are noisy, curious, happy and full of life, just as in your country.

Our goal is to do our best, not as for men, but as for God. We seek to help children who come from single-parent families and families who have difficulty providing for their children. The children from these families are suffering from malnutrition, not to mention hygiene and health problems.

In January, we added five new children to the orphanage. They came from various parts of Bolivia. Now there are a total of 19 children at the orphanage. These children can now have regular meals, a clean place to live, education and loving care. As the orphanage grows, so does the staff of the orphanage. We now have an excellent cook, an experienced teacher and psychologist, and a hard-working lawyer. The work is growing, and with it, more responsibility. Together, we are a winning team!

In two more weeks, we will prepare the study room with some study tables and benches for seating, a large blackboard, educational posters and a bulletin board. After that, the next project is to landscape the courtyard, which includes covering it with a new layer of soil and planting grass, fruit trees, shrubs, cactus and roses. We also plan to create a gravel parking area and some walkways. After the rainy season is over and the exterior walls have dried, we will paint the outside walls of the kitchen and dining room.

There is still a lot to do, but thanks to your support, the work goes forward. No one can help everybody, but everybody can help someone in some way.

With best regards,

Aija Ruka Tørre

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