

Cochabamba, Bolivia
July 2003

Dear Valle Hermoso Web page readers:

After quite a time of silence, we are back with much good news.

First of all, it's been half a year since the orphanage moved to its present location. After considering and evaluating the work that has been done, we can say with joy that it was absolutely worth it!

Last time, we mentioned that our dream was to get the study room ready by adding long tables and two blackboards on the wall. Now it is done! The children enjoy doing their homework in this room. It looks so nice.

The seventh of June was a big day of changes for Valle Hermoso. A big group from the Cochabamba International Church came out and painted the outside walls of the buildings. In addition to that, they brought soil for the grass. It was hard work, but the results were fantastic! Many kids, after they came out of the living room, (where they were "held" by a youth group who kept them busy during the painting process), said, "Wow, I feel like I have moved to another orphanage!" or "My home got a new face!" I have to say, it is so nice and wonderful to hear such phrases from the kids. It gives me extra motivation to continue. Actually, it is for them that we do all this work, so that they can grow up and become good citizens. First, they can be a good example to those around them, then they can make a better future for Bolivia.

After that, we got an unexpected visit from some Americans who wanted to help the orphanage in some way. It was no sooner said than done. They painted the office room and installed two lamps under the entrance to the kitchen and the dining room. We have so much to be thankful for to God for what He is doing through people!

One other blessing is that VH received donations of two brand-new bunk beds with mattresses and lots of toys for the kids. It feels like we are having Christmas in the middle of the year! It is so nice to see and admit that together we can do much more. Each bit of help and support means so much to us. We thank you with all of our hearts.

In Bolivia, all the school children have their winter vacation now. At this time, the VH kids are going to the tropical zone (Chapare) to ride horses, swim in the river, take a boat trip, get to know a banana plantation and visit the Villa Tunari Park. They will be there for five days. It is a new experience for them and surely a lot of fun to see a place that is so different from Cochabamba. In the next newsletter, I'll tell you how the trip to Chapare went.

With best wishes,

Aija Ruka Tørre

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