

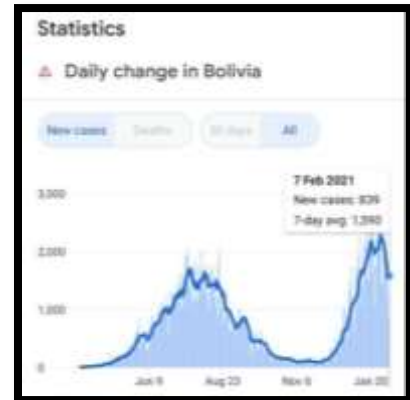


Haven of Hope Bolivia

January 2021

Warm greetings from Haven of Hope Bolivia, where summer vacation draws to an end, even though the hot, rainy season will carry on for several weeks, if not months.

School started on February 1st in Bolivia, where the upward climb in Covid-19 cases has surpassed the first peak in cases mid-year 2020. Because the national economy cannot withstand another rigid quarantine, the central government has resisted petitions from the health sector calling for another lockdown and instead has opted to urge the population to follow proper prevention protocol and to delegate authority to municipalities to implement local measures as needed. Additionally, the national government decreed that most classes in 2021 will begin online for precaution and periodic evaluations will be made to determine when hybrid and, eventually, in-person classes become an option.



Christmas 2020

In spite of several milder but longer lasting Covid-19 cases among HOHB staff during the holidays that affected some end-of-the-year activities, the children enjoyed a prosperous holiday season with generous gifts from their sponsors and several visits from local contacts who provided things like special snacks, shoes, toys and even a new oven.



Thank you for making Christmas 2020 so special for our children!!!



Donation of an oven by Dr. Mendez



Shoes for all of the children from a local donor



Fruitcake is a special holiday treat in Bolivian tradition – like Christmas cookies in the USA.

A New Family Member – Fiorella

Fiorella, the youngest sister of four siblings, was recently reunited with her brothers and sisters at HOHB. At age 5-going-on-6, she is currently our youngest child at Haven of Hope. She just started 1st grade last week.



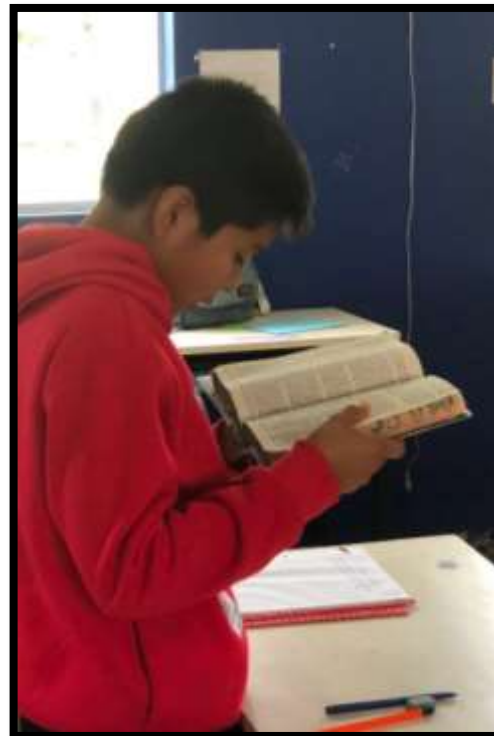
Their smiles say it all! Reunited siblings left to right: Ruth, Miguel, Fiorella and Cristiano.

Boys Program

As both the number of boys and the boys themselves have grown at HOHB, the development of programs specific to raising young men is also expanding.



“An Ideal Young Man” is one of those programs. Local pastors and youth leaders have gotten involved and are investing their time, knowledge and experiences with our boys.



In this class, Pastor Elmer from Abundant Life Church of God shares the lesson, “My Identity in Christ”.

The encouraging verse on the screen is the foundation of this restorative lesson:

“This is my Son, whom I love; with him I am well pleased.” Matthew 3:17

2020 Graduates

Two of our young women graduated from high school in December 2020. Both Martha and Yoselina have called Haven of Hope Bolivia home for the last 6 years. Both have overcome many obstacles to become the lovely, talented young women they are today, and both aspire to obtain a university degree. Thank you for your continued prayers and support that empower the beautiful young people in our Youth Development Program to work towards their dreams.



Getting Ready for Back to School and the Start of Virtual Classes

After plenty of fun and rest in December, the children began to review core subjects to retain the skills they learned to have the best possible start to the new school year. The younger children practiced reading and arithmetic. The high school students had tutoring classes with their teachers for the most challenging subject for many of them: Math, Chemistry and Physics.



Left: Miguel uses an abacus to practice math.

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Right: Jose works on multiplication at the chalkboard.





Eddy and Estefania hard at work



Oscar completing his tasks



Estefania making good use of the tablets provided through the Emergency Rescue technology package.



Our 6th graders pause for a picture. Left to right: Juan David, Brittany and Javier)

Dental and Medical Care

Our directors work closely with our social workers and educators to make sure our children get both regular and need-based medical and dental attention. The faithful support from our child sponsors helps ensure the funds are available for this essential care.



Left: Dr. Regina continues to attend to our children's regular dental health.

Right: Melany bravely receives one of her regular vaccinations.



Erica visits the doctor for frequent nose bleeds.



Fiorella gets her entry check-up.

Staff Changes

After a year and a half of juggling her teaching career with life as an educator at HOHB as a single mom, Mariela decided to focus on teaching and her own two children. Happily, Veronica Vedia has stepped up to the plate, returning to HOHB as the rotating educator, which means that she works with the group whose regular educators are taking their week off.



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Our psychologist, Jose Luis Miranda, entered 2021 as married man! The wedding ceremony took place in HOHB's chapel on December 31, 2020 and was officiated by Gladys's pastors from Mexico via Zoom. This platform also allowed Gladys's family and friends back home in Mexicali to participate. The children and on campus staff celebrated the reception with them on HOHB campus. (And yes, we now also have two people at HOHB named Gladys/Gladis.)



Thank you!

Once again, we want to take this opportunity to thank our fearless leader, Alice Skaff and HOHI's board as well as all of our sponsors and friends who regularly intercede for Haven of Hope Bolivia and generously give of their time and resources in a tangible expression of love for the children and youth who have found their safe place at Haven of Hope. You are in our prayers and we look forward to seeing you soon!



Magdalena and her girls enjoy an ice cream cone during an afternoon outing at the park. Activities like this one are a piece of the ongoing strategies to create intentional connection times both among the groups to promote healthy interpersonal relationships and one-on-one time as a basis for trauma informed care and restoration.