

**STANSBERRY CHILDREN'S DAYCARE
GUARDARIA MOISES**

NEWSLETTER #50

April/May 2004

Casilla 578 Santa Cruz, Bolivia S.Am.

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CHILDREN ENROLMENT- The daycare has been buzzing with activity this year. At the end of last year, we had about 45 children registered at the daycare who attended regularly. This year, this number rose to 61 and we had to turn a lot of parents away to avoid overcrowding. We now have ten active staff at the daycare and they are really busy with children. Lucy continues to give oversight to the daycare center with the help of six educators, a cook and several volunteers.

We hope to eventually expand the daycare capacity to 100 children when we finalize construction of the four class rooms. In addition, we hope to start a library for the community. We will be looking for books and old computers which will be of great help to the project. If you are interested in helping us with any of these items, please get in touch with us through our email. Thanks.

New Dining Room



CONSTRUCTION PROJECTS— The daycare has been a beehive of activity most of last year with construction work. Most construction work finally ground to a halt in March this year. That saw completion of the new kitchen/dining room, laundry room and two class rooms. We inaugurated the Daycare Kitchen/Dining room on the same day we had the 50th anniversary. The new facilities are all in use as we write.

But wait.....
The final phase of construction will be the completion of 4 class rooms, which we hope to do this year. We will be receiving 3 work teams from Maine, Maryland and Pennsylvania which come in May, June and July respectively. The cost of one pair of classrooms is about \$15,000. We need to raise \$30,000 to successfully finish this project. We hope to take a break in construction work after that and concentrate on working with the children and their families.

SPONSORSHIP- *We are presently in great need for sponsorship for our children at the daycare.* We will give child information to each interested sponsor but this will change yearly, because the daycare children attendance changes each year.

The cost of sponsorship is \$30 per child per month. As of now, only about a quarter of the daycare children have sponsorship and we badly need help! If you are interested in sponsoring a child at the daycare, please get in touch with us for more information. Thank you.

**Stansberry Day Care
Caring for Children
Strengthening Families**

Did you know that when you support the Day Care work, you are helping:

- * single parent families to remain intact?
- * provide quality daycare to children at risk?
- * promote education and developmental gains?
- * share God's compassion and love to His little ones?

TIMELY VISITORS- Chuck, Cindy, Larry & Lynn and their children and Chuck's boss Verne, thought they were coming for a visit in February, but we had so much for them to do we literally turned their vacation experience into an agonizing work team experience. They all helped us get a lot of stuff done, especially here at the daycare. They got installed and running the washing machine, dryer, water heater and the dish washer. The latter was sitting in the work shop for months since we had no technical know-how to get it to work. Thanks to Chuck, Verne and Larry's invaluable experience as fix it guys, we can now use it. After its installation, we had some trouble finding dishwasher detergent in Santa Cruz and after much looking, Larry finally found the solution. We are very grateful that everything is running fine. Larry also helped us put up a fence for the baby playground, paint the game zone for the rest of the daycare kids and build a bunch of storage shelves. Lynn and Cindy helped mend, arrange, make bibs, bed sheets, towels and take care of the daycare babies among other things. Thanks a million guys for all you did for us and the children. May the good Lord bless you and please....do come again. We won't put you to work, promise.



Cutting the Ribbon- Chuck Paetkau with Lucy Salas de Saucedo, Director of the Day Care

Do you need ideas for your Summer Bible School or Sunday School Projects?

- Donations for Classroom Construction at the Day Care
- Child Sponsorship- \$30 per month or \$360/year will sponsor one child for one year

Did You Know?

You can now receive the newsletter electronically!

Contact the U.S. office via e-mail and you will receive newsletters that you can share with family or friends, saving Stansberry resources at the same time!

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Eunice with (left to right) Sara, Karen, Carla, and Briti.

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We bring you seasonal greetings from Santa Cruz, Bolivia.

We greet you with these words from the very mouth of

Jesus talking to his disciples.

Jesus..... Said to the disciples ...

"stay here and keep watch with me." (Mathew 26:38)

Was Jesus afraid to be alone or to go through what was before Him? No, it was the love and bond between them which made parting impossible. The agony of Jesus in the Garden of Gethsemane is the agony of God and man in one person, coming face to face with sin. The veil is pulled back here to reveal all that it cost Him to make it possible for us to become sons of God. Having just celebrated Easter we can still reflect on the wonderful love of God dramatically demonstrated at the cross of Calvary providing a way of access into the very presence of God.

SEASONS WITH REASONS- We have been going through a lot of changes and transitions and no doubt we have felt the effects, but the children have felt it most. We have also been learning that every season has its own beauty and ugliness. The snowy and cold winter, the hot and sticky summer, the beauty of spring as green shoots start popping up through the ground and the incredible beauty of fall when the leaves are so colorful. No season lasts forever but they are all bound to come and they are all important. Would you imagine how boring it would be if there was only one season through out the year?

NEW HOUSE PARENTS (DIRECTORS)- Since December 2003, when Juan and Juanita left, we have not had house parents. Even though everything seemed to be going alright, something was definitely missing and that was a father and a mother figure for the children which brings security for the children. We thank God very much and lack words to thank Samuel Cook from Wisconsin, USA who came just at the time of great need. It's amazing that at the age of twenty-one, God used Sam to take the role of a father for three and a half months. He did all the shopping, went to the market, took children to the doctor and availed himself always for other calls.

In February, we welcomed Edmilson and Flora with their children Ariel 17, Janine 15, and Neide 11. Edmilson is Brazilian but he came to Bolivia as a teenager and can speak Spanish fluently. Flora is Bolivian and can also speak Portuguese fluently. Their children can understand Spanish and can speak enough to communicate. They go to the same school our children go to and they are getting along well. The children here seem relieved and excited and we can already see a lot of positive changes. Please remember to pray for this family during this time of transition in their lives.



*Marcel and Erlinda
Our Library Tutors*

SCHOOL UPDATE- The end of last year grade reports were quite impressive. All the children passed except one. First trimester grade reports just came in, but they are not as impressive. There were good marks and bad marks but the latter were more. We definitely need to do something and take some measures to improve their performances. One measure we have taken is letting only the best students participate in the special sports program at school. The teachers are in agreement with this and that way the children can work harder and get more hours with the library tutors, giving more time for supervision and revision of their homework. Carla, one of the youngest girls at the home, joined first grade this year. She is so excited that she makes sure everybody knows that she is no longer in kindergarten. Jenny, her sister, and Maggie miss her. They can hardly wait for next year when they join first grade.

TRANSITIONS FROM THE HOME- In the past three months, four members of our family have left us. Limberth and his brother Luis are again living with their parents. Their parents separated when the boys were young, Luis remained with the father and Limberth with the mother. Their parents are now remarried other spouses and Luis is with his father and Limberth with his mother.

Deborah, who turned twenty-one, left the home in February and is now living with a Christian family. She did not want to leave the only home she knew, but we've let her know that it is for her good. She is still taking English courses and goes to night school to finish high school. She plans to be done the end of this year. She also works as a volunteer for a Mennonite Central Committee program, working with children.

Juan Carlos, 17 years of age, left the home in January and is now doing a course in agriculture at Concepcion, a small town six hours from here. Juan Carlos finished his eighth grade last year, however, it seemed like he was having more trouble in school. He felt big and too old being in eighth grade and we think this affected his performance. After talking to him, we decided to put him at the technical school and hopefully this will work for him.

We continue to pray for the four children as they face the transitions in their lives as well as the rest of us at the home as we adjust to the changes. Diego was the most affected when his brother Juan Carlos left, but he is pulling up well.



BIRTHDAYS

(QUINCE)- Bruno just celebrated his fifteenth birthday, which is a big thing here in Bolivia. He looked so sharp with a brown shirt, grey trousers and black shoes. It was a wonderful evening filled with joy and music as

we celebrated with him this special day. We had the place adorned with green and white, even the cake. He had insisted on having only these colors because they are the colors of his favorite football (soccer) team "Oriente". We tried to convince him to allow us to put some blue, even if it meant one balloon just for the sake of the lovers of the other team "Blooming" but we got a clear "no."

The girls perform for the celebration.



DIA DEL HOGAR (50TH ANNIVERSARY)- On February 14, 2004 we celebrated the 50th anniversary of the Home's founding. To us it was an end of one era and the beginning of another. That is why this year is so special and unique to us all. We thank God that the work and vision that John and Elena (Opal) started fifty years ago continues. We had about two hundred guests on this day, a little more than we expected, but the food was enough and there was a piece of cake for everyone. We thank God for the two Paetkau families who were present. Chuck and Cindy with their children Josh, Dylan and Anna together with his brother Larry and Lynn and their children, Elise and Clair, were a great blessing to us. They helped us in planning for the day and doing other stuff at the Home and Day Care. Above everything we all thoroughly enjoyed their presence and friendship. Thank you for your big help and.....please come again.

VOLUNTEERS- We thank God for all our volunteers; we don't know what we would do without them. Rebecca Milliner, from England was a big blessing to us, using her nursing skills to see that the children kept healthy. Thanks Rebecca for your time with us, we hope you are settling down well back in London. Sam Cook, thank you for taking the role of a father and did you not prove us wrong by showing us you could still do it without a wife! Good job!! We are still looking for volunteers both for the Home and Day Care for this year. If you would be interested, please get in touch with us for an information package.

**Check out our website at:
www.stansberrychildren.org**

ANIMALS AND BABY ANIMALS- Our old, faithful and loving dog Meda seems to be getting to the end of the road. She is lately snapping at people and barking wildly. We also think she is half-blind. We can't think of her gone; she is such a sweet dog. She meets us every morning when we come, shakes our hands and sits by the office door till we leave.

The cows continue giving us plenty of milk. We have a bunch of recent born calves named Jonathan, Rebecca, Sam, Heather and Ariel after our dear volunteers and one of the new directors' son.

The usual outbreak of piglets continues, meaning more meat and some income too. Can't forget 24th of last December, the day we needed to supply meat for a family for the Christmas supper. Quito was not around to help and so five pairs of inexperienced hands set on slaughtering the pig. We were progressing well until it came to ripping its belly open. The slipping of the knife cut the wrong place brought out the bad stuff splashing on all of us. Poor Adela (cook) got the most stuff splashed on from her head to foot. We still made it and dropped the meat to the family just in time to prepare their supper.

TO OUR DEAR SPONSORS- Thank you very much for your prayers and financial support to Stansberry home. You have been a great blessing to the work of ministering to the children. You are welcome to visit here any time.

And haven't you stayed and kept watching with us though you are far?

Solomon and Eunice Mwangi, Administrators
Stansberry Children's Home and Day Care



We wish to recognize **Jenny Derksen**. She has served as the President of the Board for Stansberry Children's Home and Day Care for many years. She was a faithful friend of Mrs. Stansberry's and was instrumental in helping to get the Home reorganized and back on its feet following Mrs. Stansberry's death.

Jenny is taking a break from her duties and **Vicki Cooper** will be serving in her place. Thank you Jenny for being a true servant and for all of your encouragement in this ministry.

Who are the Stansberry supporters?

- Folks in Sunday Schools
- Folks in Families
- Individuals who like being a part of this ministry
- Persons who have known the Stansberrys
- Ex-volunteers
- Persons who have adopted in years past
- Church families
- Other mission groups
- Local persons and businesses in Bolivia

We appreciate and thank each and everyone of you for all you do!



"Homework!
We'd rather eat
and play!"

Jose and Eliseo
eating local
fruit.