

R MISSION BOLIVIA

RESCUE – RESTORE - REINTEGRATE

Serving street children and disadvantaged families in Bolivia

November - December 2022

Hello all. It's been a crazy few months with more forest fires, then a lot of rain, protests, roadblocks, very hot weather – 40 degrees and a lot of work. We had to prioritise various aspects of establishing the centre and our sustainability due to continued political unrest and a lack of options for security on site during December.

Since we started building we looked forward to having some security for our belongings and now we have some windows and doors on the centre we are in a much better position.



The girls are in their bedroom...



...and a new space for home-school

The office/home-school area is changing and now has a window, bookshelves and a desk. With the odd leak we are not able to set-up any permanent electrical equipment yet. But we are very happy to have unpacked some more of our items from the UK.

We are in, although we still have a few leaks... so furniture has been moved about so we don't get a surprise in the night if it rains. We are still living from suitcases and baskets but the break from the tent which had become smelly and damp is amazing!



Isaac's efforts with planting vegetables and herbs is now starting to pay off. We have a lot of maize (a lot will become chicken feed), bean plants in flower, tomatoes, turmeric, ginger, cassava, potatoes, thyme, oregano and other herbs, plus our kale is still producing! He has moved/planted papaya and banana plants again and it won't be long until more of them are fruiting.



Isaac with the help of the girls has invented several jam recipes using local plums plus our own mangos, citrus fruit and ginger. They are part of our own sustainability but also a future business plan to help the mission finances and provide work for those we help.



The jam is unique in Bolivia as it is ~50% less sugar than other jams. Isaac is always trying to make healthier versions of food recipes and products whilst maintaining a great taste. We hope to expand the recipes and test them over the next 6 months whilst we put together a business plan that includes jam, honey and in the future possibly coffee, macadamia nuts and chocolate. RM Business Link are helping us with this which is a huge blessing.

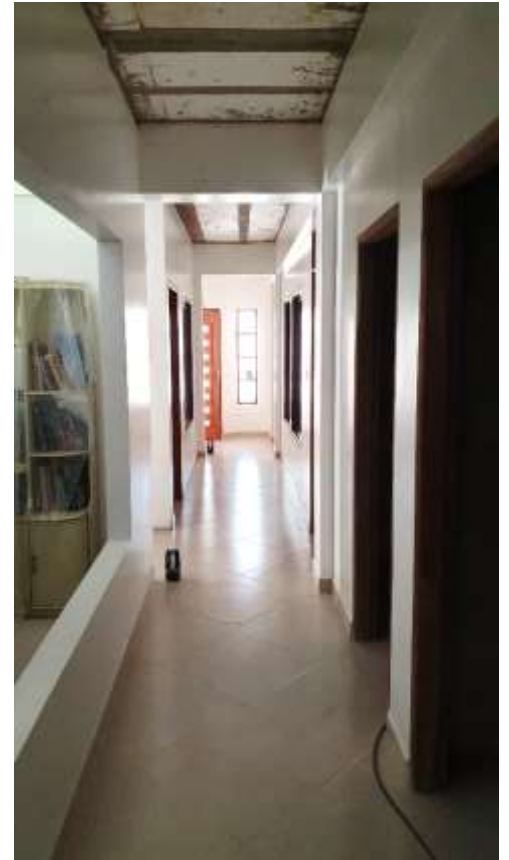
Anali has been organising kids from a local church plant to help paint the room they use for their classes. As promised here it is finished!



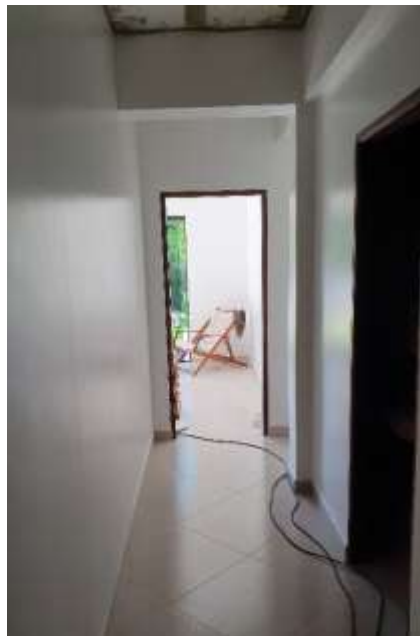
BUILDING THE CENTRE...

Due to the ongoing protests during November, we did not try and get into the city and so we focused on using up products we already had on site.

This meant a lot of painting, laying floors and floor tiles and extending our entrance road further towards the river. One day it will cross the river!



Paint
Flooring
Windows
Varnish
Doors



In December we launched our fundraising effort – ‘You give, we burpee’ to help fund the cost of putting the main roof up over the centre.



YOU GIVE... WE BURPEE!

We are the Butcher family. In 2021 we left behind our life in the UK to help street kids in Bolivia.



Building a centre is part of the vision. We have got so far but to create a safe space for the broken kids and families we are helping we need to get a roof on and we need some help.

We are very much in need of this permanent solution to protect the centre and keep water out!



Our fundraising efforts and your generosity have helped to raise about £12,000 so far.



For the whole of December 2022 for every £1 you give, we (kids included) will do a burpee, push-up or squat. We will be sharing our progress (and burpees) via social media to thank those who have donated!



We still have some way to go, we expect the total cost to be £40,000. But we are much closer and will be starting preliminary works in February 2023.

Current issues in Bolivia.



The last strike/protest (detailed in our previous newsletter) lasted 36 days! Many buildings were attacked and some burned down. The above building we had to visit for a document was burned out inside so we couldn't complete some new paperwork for our car. These events affected so many people in different ways and many people seemed willing to give up their financial security in their desire to fight for justice. We had a brief pause of peace in December only for a new crisis to arise at the end of the month with the ruling political party arresting a democratically elected leader from the opposition. It is a complex situation and now there are new roadblocks (although temporarily relaxed until the next big civic meeting). There are daily marches and protests in many of the cities and there has been a lot of violence with the use of tear gas, fireworks and other weapons.

As you can imagine we have not been able to get to the city safely and have avoided travelling there. This has put our main focus on getting the centre finished, local mission, site management and installing more water pipes and taps around the site.





Our girls have been building...and making apple ducks!



We enjoyed a mid-week church service with our local Baptist church from the community 'Espejos'. They also made a cake for Isaac's birthday!



Eunice and Amelia had their first concert. They have since practiced so much and can sing and play a few worship songs



Christmas was full of fun with lots of visitors, especially kids in the church in Espejos.



WHAT'S NEXT?

- We will keep fundraising for our roof.
- In February we start preliminary works on the upper level for the main roof.
- In February we also have a team of 5 helpers coming from the UK
- Air flow – we need to modify the centre to allow better airflow.
- Design rooms/beds – warm/homely feel bunk beds and wardrobes for the kids.
- Design and build clothes storage for us.
- Continue working on sustainability with our vegetable areas.
- Learn about bee keeping and honey.
- When it is safe to do so we will restart our city mission. In the meantime we will be visiting neighbours and local communities.



MAIN PRAYER POINTS

- A peaceful and legal solution to the current political and social issues.
- Roads to remain open for us to safely get back to mission in the city.
- Those living on the streets to continue to receive food and refreshments and for stability for their mental, physical and spiritual health.
- The finance to finish the centre – the main roof being priority at this point.
- Local mission activities, pray for open doors and protection as we visit neighbouring communities.
- Additional missionaries to come alongside us and join our team.
- Our relationships with local churches and the work we do together.
- Our girls – for their studies and wellbeing.
- Protection for our builders and helpers.
- Protection over our property, belongings, our animals and produce.

Thank you so much for your love, prayers and support

Isaac, Anali, Eunice & Amelia
XXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXX

To make a donation please visit: www.rmissionbolivia.com

