

Rising Star

News of some of the Lord's work in Northern Peru

From all of us here at Morning Star.....HAPPY NEW YEAR! December is always a month to remember! So much happens with the end of the school year, Christmas, the arrival of warmer weather and even a birthday or two....it gets busy! We are so thankful for "hindsight" as we can see how the Lord was at work even when in the moment we sometimes lacked clarity but can now appreciate His sovereign oversight and faithful provision.

Jairo came to us a over a year ago from a very broken situation. His father in jail for murder and his mother in the mental ward of the hospital, he lived with a dozen relatives in a small house and the clear message that he was unwanted pushed him to wander the streets of Chiclayo looking for handouts and avoiding going "home" until absolutely necessary. He could not read or write when he came to Morning Star and yet this month he succesfully finished 2nd grade. His dream was to have his birthday party on the 15th at the nearby river. He'd never been to a river in his life and we were happy to accomadate his simple wish.



On a normal year the Christmas season would be packed with events and performances at schools, churches and other venues; however, with COVID-19 protocols still in place, we were limited to in-house activities and yet still wanted it to be memorable. With 22 children to participate, we successfully had an "end of school" event as well as a Christmas program and a special Christmas dinner (it took 2 turkeys to satisfy 35 people!)



Some of our children have been with us for many years while for others this was their first Christmas away from their home and in both cases it can produce mixed emotions, those of missing biological family connections yet at the same time

enjoying the holiday spirit. We do our best to make it a happy day for each child learning about the true meaning of God's gift to them of His Son and lightening the celebration with the chance to open presents that have been sitting under the Christmas tree. We are thankful for the Lord's provision that enables us to share a few personal gifts with each child on Christmas morning.





The office of Child Protective Services contacted us on December 15th requesting placement for a healthy 6 year old boy and we had exactly one bed available in the “Boy’s House”. Only after they dropped him off did it become evident that he was autistic. There is little awareness of autism in Peru and Marco was born into a very low income home in one of the slums of Chiclayo. His mother abandoned the home during his early childhood leaving him in the care of his older sister (she is just now twelve) and an alcoholic father. Far from any specialized attention, he was simply considered retarded and has never receiving any education or really any upbringing of any kind except to be fed and clothed. That is a lot of ground to make up and while at first he created the impression of being quite ferril, we soon discovered within him a pliable, sweet and teachable disposition. He’s come leaps and bounds in his first two weeks at Morning Star and we are searching for ways to connect with him and provide the loving, nuturing



environment that will unlock his world.

Sibila and her daughter Mery came to Morning Star a year and a half ago, the first time we’ve had to juggle a “mother/daughter” dynamic within the household chain of authority, an interesting experience when Mom is hardly more than a child herself. Sibila however has come a long way, learning about parenting and growing herself as well, she came to know the Lord, was baptized, and then in September, 2020, turned 18. With no family connections to turn to, how was she to finish her high school education, develop marketable skills and income, and be able to provide for herself and her child? The Lord answered your prayers and ours by opening the hearts of Jorge and Raquel Palma, an older couple in Ica who offered to take Sibila and Mery into their home and help them transition into independence. Once we got Child Protective Services on board with the plan they proceeded to close the case by granting Sibila full custody of Mery. The two traveled to Ica December 28th and are now settling into their new surroundings. Your continued prayers will be invaluable in their adjustment process.



Thank you so much for your faithful prayers as well as your financial support throughout this past year. As we look forward to the Lord’s soon return to call up His church, our prayer is that He will find us all faithfully hard at work making the best use of the “talents” He has entrusted to each to invest in the growth of His kingdom.

The Staff at Morningstar