

# Rising Star

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

Daytime temperatures are still in the high 80's at Morning Star and school will not be starting until late April, so the children are happy to have a chance to frolic outdoors, especially when water is involved. The small pool is emptied each week and refilled and it's a chance to have a lot of refreshing fun. As we all know by now, the reason for the educational delay are the measures being taken to avoid the spread of COVID-19. What does this look like in Peru? Only essential traffic is allowed during the day, hence just two or three of the staff leave the Morning Star campus only a few times a week and, on the drive to the market or grocery store in Chiclayo, we will be stopped several times to verify that we do in fact have the special permit allowing us to move around due to the fact that we care for "at risk" youth. Those who venture out without justification are likely to be arrested. There is a 6pm to 5am curfew in place in our area during which medical emergencies are the only justification for being in public. For the Morning Star children the impact has been minimal, the summer schedule continues as usual with the exception of church meetings which have been suspended for the duration of the lockdown.



During the month of March we celebrated three birthdays!!!



**JUANA** turned 7



**Mery Daniela** turned 2



**Antonio** turned 14

We thank the Lord for His provision during the quarantine, and for the relative normalcy we have been able to maintain for the children's sake. Part of the fallout, however, has been the closing of the judicial system nationwide which means there is no progress being made in custody cases, adoption proceedings or new intakes. The expansion project has been completed and furnished but will have to wait to be occupied until the quarantine is lifted and the Department of Child Services resumes operations. We have to assume that at risk children around the country are currently being left in situations even more precarious than before and anticipate that once things begin to return to normal these available placements will soon be filled.

Back in the month of January we offered to host a 7 month long BIBLE SCHOOL program here at Morning Star. Due to the logistics involved in preparation for that we set a cutoff date of February 16<sup>th</sup> at which time, due to the lack of registrations, we felt the Lord was leading us to suspend that activity for this year. Now we have a clearer picture as to how it would have been impossible to make that happen under the current local and international travel restrictions and the uncertainties of when the daily routine will return to normal.

Of course there is an additional layer of difficulty under the present circumstances to plan, program and execute activities for the children, staff schedules and interactions with governing authorities, however we are thankful that we can turn to the Lord for wisdom and guidance each day and continue to show His love not only to the 17 children we have in our care but also to the surrounding community.

We appreciate your prayers on behalf of the Lord's work at Morning Star!

*The Staff at Morningstar*

