



Settling in ...



It's good to be back!

I have now been in Bolivia for 2 weeks. It has been great to reconnect with old friends, return to familiar places & be reminded of things about



Bolivia I had forgotten!

Santa Cruz, is hot & humid, it has busy chaotic

streets & very welcoming people.

The girl's home - El Alfarero

Currently, we only have 4 girls in the home; Lidia (12) & Ivonne (15), pictured below, Yolanda (15) & Virginia (11). This is partly due to 3 girls, & their children, moving to the reintegration house last month but also because the girls find it much more difficult than the boys to leave the streets and to receive any kind of help. (We have 26 boys

in the boy's home & 4 in a reintegration house). We really want to focus on helping more girls. We have the capacity to receive 14 girls into the home.



My work so far

I have been working predominately in the girl's home which I really enjoy. My job is to get alongside the girls & care for them. It involves sweeping & mopping floors, helping in the kitchen & with homework, collecting from school, leading a short devotional each morning (bible reading & prayer) & doing lots of fun things together! Fun things have included, playing games, watching films & dancing (they have taught me more break dancing & I have taught them some ballet!) It is sometimes difficult at the moment because the girls are trying to get away with as much as they can before I learn all the rules of the home, I need to get used to being stricter at times! However, I do love it & it is so great to pick up the girls from school & see them living happy 'normal' lives when their past was so different.

I have not had many opportunities to go out with the first contacts team yet (visiting the teenagers living on the streets), but I will be going out several times this coming month, so I will tell you more about this in my next newsletter!

Training

The week of training in England was a useful time of reflection, teaching & prayer. It was also a great opportunity to get to know & encourage young people who were about to go to India & Uganda. In Bolivia, we had a day of training by a Romanian man, Viorel, who came to visit our ministry. He had worked for long time in Romania, helping Romanian young people who had lived in orphanages to prepare for independence. He came to train us about re-integration (see the picture below which shows Viorel with the ministry's staff). I found it a really useful reminder that we are not just bringing the teenagers off the streets and caring for them in the homes but we are looking to help restore them into society and teaching them to live independently.

