



December 2016

A fond farewell



Short-term prospects

NOVEMBER SAW visits from representatives of two missions organisations to *Fundación Total*. Sue Vissers (left) and Brigitte Borner (right) work for Latin America Mission Canada (LAM Canada) and Latin Link Bolivia respectively, both in the capacity of short-term coordinators. Sue and Brigitte came to Trinidad in November to investigate further opportunities for sending short-term volunteers to FT. The ministry has benefitted greatly from 'short-termers' over the years, and we hope these avenues of support will see the arrival of many more in the years ahead.

WHILE STAFF LOOK forward to more time with friends and family over Christmas and New Year, the year's end is bittersweet for all here at *Fundación Total*, as it brings with it the departure of our Finance Director, Mariana Garrón.

Mariana began work at FT as an administrative assistant after graduating from secondary school, but her capabilities soon saw her being entrusted with oversight of FT's finances. During her seven years of service, Mariana has been fundamental in ensuring the effective running of day-to-day operations, taking on many other administrative tasks in addition to her finance remit.

As if to underscore Mariana's importance, she has been replaced with not one, but two new staff members: administrator Hernán Pedriel (left) and accountant Vladimir Cortez (right). Hernán and Vladimir began working with us in December so as to allow for a smooth transition of Mariana's duties.

While sad to see Mariana go, we are delighted that she will enrol in a seminary in Santa Cruz in February to study cross-cultural missions. Mariana has long had a heart for missions, and if her dedication to FT counts for anything, nobody deserves this opportunity more.



Home and away

THIS YEAR'S ENT surgical campaign took place once again in December, led by visiting surgeon Dr. Richard Wagner (USA), from Global ENT Outreach. Dr. Wagner (pictured, left, with nurses Neyde Congo and Clara Vaca) was joined by Dr. Álvaro Calvo, representing *Fundación Arcoiris* in La Paz, one of FT's partners in a cross-Bolivia network of ENT healthcare providers.

ENT surgery takes place throughout the year on FT premises, overseen by our own ENT surgeon Dr. Guillermo Azogue, but the annual surgical campaign sees more complex cases go under the knife over the course of a week. This year, 14 patients were attended to.

The campaign brought to an end a busy few months for FT's *¡Oye, Bolivia!* (Hear, Bolivia!) project, which is generously supported by Christian Blind Mission. In October, in partnership with the municipal government, FT sent a small team to the small town of San Ignacio (three hours west of Trinidad), providing care to 118 patients.

A larger team then flew to Riberalta, a town in the north of the country, in mid-November. There, 389 patients received medical attention from the team of ENT specialists and nurses.

We give thanks for safety for both patients and staff during these various ventures.

Taking a time-out

IN SYNC with the local school holidays, December and January see the Sports and Education & Community areas taking something of a break, though not before their end-of-year celebrations. In November and December, as is tradition, activities such as the mother-and-toddler group, the women's arts and crafts group, and the English class, had their closing events. The Sports participants and coaches, from both basketball and football, came together for a closing ceremony, replete with certificates, medals, trophies...and a barbecue!

Meanwhile, in October, FT Sports partnered with local evangelical church *El Jireh* to help send several participants in the football ministry to the church's annual camp.

PRAYER POINTS

- Pray for a smooth adjustment to 2017 in the light of staff changes.
- Pray for Mariana as she begins a new chapter, and give thanks for her years of humble service.
- Give thanks for the Lord's goodness to Fundación Totalí during 2016.
- Please pray for funds to replace our water tower (see October edition). If you are interested in helping, or finding out more, please write to amandacunningham85@gmail.com.