



FOUNDATION TOTAL
HEALTH EDUCATION COMMUNITY SPORTS

FT News

March 2015



Raising Awareness



SPORTS

FT'S FOOTBALL and basketball ministries have resumed after the summer break, with thrice-weekly afternoon training sessions kicking off in early February. The Sports staff are also looking forward to a special training event for coaches in May, in which they will be looking at how to effectively share the gospel during sports training sessions.

THE HEALTH AND Education workers at Fundación Total have recently been involved in initiatives to promote the work here and draw attention to the needs of others throughout Bolivia.

Tuesday the 3rd of March was International Ear & Hearing Care Day, and FT used the occasion to offer a morning of free consultations. An advertisement was shown on local TV channels, and 58 patients were seen by our health staff, in what is a specialist area for the Foundation. Educational resources were also used to help patients understand how they can better look after their hearing.

Meanwhile, an event was held in Trinidad's central plaza on Thursday the 12th of March, to promote the inclusion in Bolivia's education system of disabled people, who do not have access to the same resources available in other countries. The event was run by one of our partners in a cross-Bolivian network of organisations which, like ourselves, receive support from Christian Blind Mission (CBM). Various Education and Health staff (pictured above) distributed information about FT at the event, and FT's president, Dr. Miguel-Ángel, gave an interview to local TV news.



FT's Health area recently provided much-needed medical care to a youngster who had been involved in an horrific accident while swimming in a river. Hernán Noza, 19, was paralysed from the neck down and received spinal surgery in Trinidad's central hospital. However, while there, he developed severe bed-sores. FT responded by providing a bed for Hernán in our in-patient ward, administering daily treatment for his wounds, and physiotherapy. Hernán has recently regained feeling in his arms and shoulders. He was recently transferred back to the hospital, who have accepted responsibility for treating his wounds, and where we hope he will soon receive skin-graft surgery.

Digging deeper

AS FT COMMUNITY class workers Elizabeth Vaca and Victor Elías Ramos approached the end of last year, they sensed it was time for a change of approach.

“Once a week, on Mondays, we would go out to the village of Maná to take a class,” explains Victor Elías, who is also pastor of *El Jireh* Evangelical Church, “but we were finding that most of the children who came to the class to receive Bible teaching were already taking part in the children’s ministry of the church at weekends.

“At the same time, we noticed a big drop-off in participation both in the class and in the church once they reached their teens, when they traditionally begin grappling with issues like obedience to parents, peer pressure and drug & alcohol abuse. So we took the decision to suspend the regular class in Maná and instead invite a core group of young teenagers from the class to a weekly discipleship session.”

Elizabeth and Victor Elías have been meeting with these young people (pictured, left, with their teachers) on Monday afternoons, exploring questions like ‘Who is Jesus?’ and ‘What does it mean to be saved?’ “At the moment we’re still getting to know them better,” says Victor Elías, “but we’ve already had some really interesting conversations.

Meanwhile, the Wednesday and Friday classes, for children in Trinidad, have also begun their new programme of activities for the year.

PRAYER POINTS

- Pray for the safe arrival from the UK of returning volunteers Ruth Young (7th of April) and Deborah Holmes (20th of May).
- Pray that Hernán Noza may receive surgery promptly, and pray for his recovery.
- Pray for the Sports staff as they learn how to share the gospel via their coaching.
- Pray for the children who come to the Monday classes, that they might grow as disciples.