



# New Hope for Children

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Dear Friends,

December 2022

Here at Children's Vision Bogota...WE LOVE CHRISTMAS! The trees are up, the stockings are hung, the smell of cookies is in the air and the children are asking about gingerbread houses! It is the most amazing time of the year as we celebrate the birth of our saviour Jesus Christ. It appears that Psalm 72 fits in part to the reign of King Solomon, but perhaps more clearly it can be seen as a prophecy of Christ who was to come...**Psalm 72:11-12 ...<sup>11</sup> Yea, all kings shall fall down before him: all nations shall serve him. <sup>12</sup> For he shall deliver the needy when he crieth; the poor also, and him that hath no helper.** During 2022 it has been the biggest privilege of our lives to follow the Lord, to serve Christ and be helpers for the needy! We pray that all the children we help will grow up to do the same!

Our children have grown spiritually, physically and in knowledge so much this year. Every Wednesday morning, we have our Praise Meeting where we bring all the children together to praise God and learn from the word (this in addition to our daily devotionals). Jeanene has been teaching the small children about the importance of the Bible, Creation and Salvation. They began to read "The Salvation Poem" book and at the end, Jeanene asked the children if they believed in Jesus. The answer was a resounding YES! After they prayed, a very tiny voice was heard, as little 7-year-old "B" began to sing the Salvation Poem Song, in the middle of all the children. One by one, the other children began to softly sing too. "For a moment, it felt like angels were singing among us." ... *"Jesus, You died upon a cross, And rose again to save the lost, Forgive me now of all my sin, Come be my Saviour, Lord and Friend, Change my life and make me new, And help me Lord to love for You."* It is great to give children the opportunity to know about Jesus, to love Him and praise Him!

Our school year runs from January to the end of November. December started with our school year closing and graduation ceremony. It is so special to celebrate with our students as we give thanks for their learning achievements during the year. Our High School graduates have so many hopes and dreams, we remember these young adults from the day when they arrived, many of them "knee high to a grasshopper." Here are a few of their stories.....

A family of our students, as young children, traumatically lost their father in their humble home. They were emotionally broken. The mother was unable to work or provide for her children. They came to Children's Vision, and their lives changed forever. It was great to see them happy, smiling and celebrating their school achievements.

Another mother came asking us to take her children urgently. She worked hard every day making barely enough to survive, and sometimes had to defend herself in violent situations. She didn't want her children to grow up in that same environment. What a privilege to help her children to have a better future.

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Another father had advanced stomach cancer. He asked us to help his family, as he knew he could die soon. The Dad's dream in his heart was to see his son graduate from High School. His son's dream was to help his father, even if that meant he would never go to school. Along with other treatment that the Dad has been receiving we



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were able to help with vitamin supplement drinks and peanut butter for energy! God did a miracle, the Dad is still alive and they stood together at the graduation ceremony. An amazing moment that will be treasured for a lifetime.

We remember very clearly over 12 years ago, the day 3 small children burst into tears, telling their young mother, "You said we would never be hungry again, you lied!" They lived in a tiny mountain shack. The children spoke through their tears, "take me, take me to live at your house, please, take us now, don't leave us – we are hungry, we don't want to **eat grass anymore!**" Since that day Children's Vision has helped them, they have never been hungry again. All 3 have now graduated, and the Mum too has been able to graduate from the University! This is the power of God to change generations!

Especially at Christmas it makes us so happy to see the children in fits of laughter, wearing their biggest smiles of the year and asking constantly "How many days till Christmas!"

One of the best days of the year is the giving of presents. Usually, we give our presents out in the first two weeks of December. It gives the children more time to play before school again in January and, we have volunteers at this time of year that help with all the extra activities! For some of our children this was their first Christmas, and for some their first ever Christmas presents. We gave gifts to the external students and then to the internal students. First the Christmas story about the birth of Jesus, then a special lunch and finally the presents.



Each bag is marked with a name and firstly the children have to find their bag. Then we count.....One, Two, Two 1/2, Two 3/4, Three! Paper is ripped, shouts of happiness and joy. In seconds there are balls flying around, remote control cars zooming backwards and forwards, new clothes being tried, colouring sets being used, games being played and many very happy children. Dan and I, a friend who is here helping, we literally put hundreds of batteries into many toys, to the great joy of the kids! It is amazing how sometimes the small things bring the most joy! "A" loved his new slippers. He didn't want to take them off! Praise God for moments like this that will be cherished for a lifetime.

We have also been helping many needy people. This last week we were out at night in some of the most difficult areas of the city. We would just pull up on the side of the road, jump out quickly and surprise many street families with a hot meal, Christmas cookies and gifts. "God Bless You, Merry Christmas!" Some of the street people were already sleeping. "M" one of our boys gave a street guy quite a shock! He was completely covered up and "M" pulled back his cover. In seconds there was a huge smile on the man's face as he dug into the food "Thank you, Thank You" he shouted. The biggest joy of the night was giving gifts to a street family. As we pulled away, we watched the little children take the gifts from the bag, they jumped for joy. Truly though, the joy and the blessing were ours!

We will make thousands of cookies this Christmas to give to our neighbours, friends and mostly to eat ourselves! YUM! So, school year closing ceremony and graduation...done, humanitarian aid distribution...done, Christmas present days...done, street people food and gifts...done, thousands of cookies...partially done, staff Christmas celebration...done, neighbourhood Christmas evangelism... coming up, neighbourhood Bible group Christmas...still to do, children's families special Christmas celebration lunch...will be the last event! Phew...after all that we can still say, TRULY, WE LOVE CHRISTMAS! THANK YOU, JESUS!



I thank God for my wife, Jeanene. Early this year we celebrated 20 wonderful years of marriage! We have worked together with all of you, our supporters, for a dream...**Our mission:** "Change the destiny of the destitute" – to make a difference in a child's life. Mission Accomplished! We say DREAMS do come true. Thank you for being part of our dream! We need your help to provide care for all these 150 little lives for 2023 and the future. On behalf of the New Hope for Children Trustees and all the children, thank you with all our heart for helping us transform lives. We pray and trust you will have a fantastic Christmas and a blessed 2023.

*Blessings and Hugs to all,  
Richard and Jeanene, Henry and our Big Bogota Family!*

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Our regular short video (3 mins or less) update service is available via dropbox. For the link, please contact Christine: [info@newhope4childrenuk.org](mailto:info@newhope4childrenuk.org)  
To book a free presentation of our work please contact: [ruth@newhope4childrenuk.org](mailto:ruth@newhope4childrenuk.org)

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