

# Ehlers Family Letter



July 2011

## Katty's Story

This month I (Jess) started interviewing some of the women to record their biographies for El Jordán's website, supporters, etc. One of the women I spoke with (through a translator), was Katty, who is 32 years old and has been coming to El Jordán for seven years.

Katty grew up in La Paz, a city about 900km from Santa Cruz. When she was 13, her parents moved to Santa Cruz where she was sent to sell toys in a market. While there, she fell in with a bad crowd of street kids. Her parents were worried about her and moved the family back to La Paz. She started running off with guys, and so her parents took her out of school.

At 14, Katty moved back to Santa Cruz and started living on the streets. She met the father of her oldest two children, who was abusive, used drugs, and drank. Katty plucked chickens to support her family for six years. She had hoped that her boyfriend would change, but realized that he wouldn't, so she left him and went back to the streets, where she met the father of her youngest child (they have one more child on the way).

Katty started coming to El Jordán because she was interested in the classes, and she started taking beadwork. She wasn't really interested in putting the things she was learning about God into



Katty working in El Jordán's crochet class.

practise. Teachers at El Jordán taught her the Bible and how to leave the streets, and taught her children lessons as well.

She still had one foot in the streets for the first couple of years, but began to be convicted that leading that kind of life and pretending she was not doing bad things while she was at El Jordán was like scoffing at God. She wanted to stop scoffing at God and change her lifestyle. She began to learn to say, "no". She didn't want her kids to follow her example, and she left the streets. Her boyfriend still goes back to the streets, and she hopes that he will change.

Katty asks for prayer for her boyfriend, that he will reconsider his lifestyle, and for her kids, that they will finish school. She gives thanks to God and to the people who have supported her, prayed for her, and visited her at home.

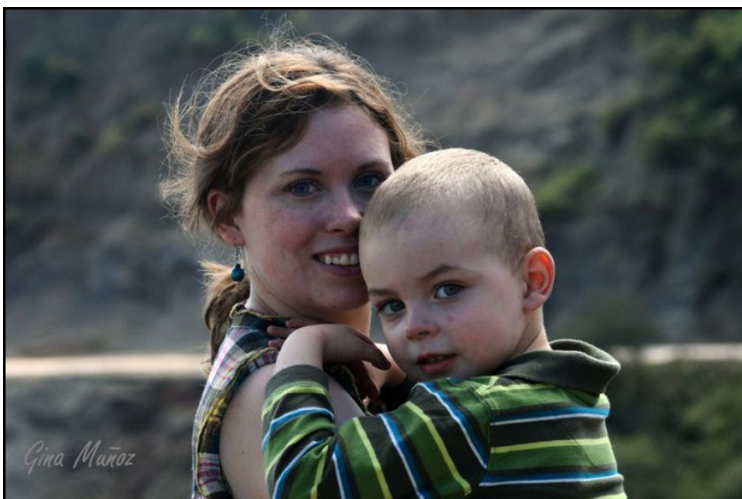
## Life & Work in Bolivia

After 8 weeks of line-ups, waiting, and paperwork, our one-year visa applications have been submitted! Now we just have to wait three more weeks for the results. Despite the lengthy process, there were several times where we were able to skip long line-ups. The most recent example was last week, when we were asked to have a paper translated by an official translator. Marco knows a translator, and made a phone call – the translator was in town but leaving in the afternoon! We were able to get our paper translated before he left.

Last month we wrote about Mariela, who was asking for prayer for her son who refused to go to school. She told us yesterday that her son has now returned to school!

The new men's workshops are still in progress, and this month someone donated the funds for a regulation-size soccer field (complete with artificial turf, lights, change rooms, etc.) and purchased the neighbouring land for the field to extend onto! Soccer is incredibly important here, and a field is a great ministry opportunity as well as possible income for the men's workshop by renting the field to local teams.

Sam has connected with the bike community, and one of the women offered to take us to Samaipata, a town three hours away in the foothills of the Andes, for a day. We had a great time seeing the landscape and going to a zoo for injured or abandoned animals (lots of monkeys, birds, an Andean cat, etc.).



Jess and Miles on the road to Samaipata.

## How to Support our Ministry

We are very grateful for all the prayer and financial support we have received. We are glad that our visa application has been submitted as this has been a source of large extra costs since arrival (more than \$900 over what was expected). Already a third of the extra cost has been donated.

If you would be willing to help financially, please contact us or use the information below. If you are praying for our ministry, we'd love if you would let us know!

**[www.avantministries.org/give](http://www.avantministries.org/give)**

Or mail payment to:

Avant Ministries  
2121 Henderson Hwy  
Winnipeg, Manitoba  
R2G 1P8

**Our project number is 11846.**

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*Please pray...*

That the construction of the Men's Workshop would keep on schedule and that God would continue to provide the necessary funds as costs keep increasing.

That we would continue to find our place serving here. Starting in August, Jess will be working in the kids room for three weeks.