

SALUDOS DE SANTA CRUZ, BOLIVIA

An update from Hannah Canaviri, working and serving at the Santa Cruz Christian Learning Center, in Bolivia.

Greetings!

Hello to my church family and friends up in cold, snowy North America! I hope this finds you doing well, and keeping safe and warm. Temperatures here in Santa Cruz are currently hovering around 95 degrees, so if you need a respite from freezing, come on down!

I want to apologize for failing to write an update about my life sooner, but I found myself caught up in class preparations during first semester and was unable to write. I hope this newsletter makes up for months of silence!



Over Christmas break this year, my family and I visited Lake Titicaca, the highest navigable lake in the world!

Life in Santa Cruz

Life here in Santa Cruz has quickly fallen into a comfortable routine, with most of my time and energy devoted to school. It took me next to no time to get used to living in the city I grew up in (still living in my family house not doubt helped!), though I am sadly aware that my Spanish now has a distinctly American twang to it.

Last semester, I found myself teaching 9th grade world history, 10th U.S. history and a history in films elective, while co-teaching the high school theater class and long-term substituting for 7th grade English. All of that definitely kept me on my toes! This semester, I have kept the 9th and 10th grade classes, and added an 11th grade civics/government class.

While I am certainly keeping busy, I am loving my time at the Santa Cruz Christian Learning Center (SCCLC). I feel very supported and encouraged by my fellow staff members, which is a huge blessing.

SCCLC has undergone several changes since I attended as a student, the most significant change being that about 90% of the student body is now Bolivian (as opposed to missionary or expat children). While this does create some challenges with regards to English language instruction, it also presents a wonderful opportunity to witness to and teach young people who could go on to have a significant impact on Bolivian society.

I've had the opportunity to get involved in the weekly high school youth group/Bible study and will be a counselor at the upcoming school camp in March. On top of all of this, I also have been made class sponsor for 10th grade, meaning I am responsible for helping them plan and carry out class fund raisers. SCCLC likes to use their teachers in as many capacities as they can, but thankfully, God has given me the energy and strength to make it through!

Future Plans

Speaking of the school... I have made the decision to stay on another year. I have really connected with many of my students and I feel like I need to stay at least another year to keep serving and helping the school. Plus, I'm looking forward to actually having a school year where I will not have to create my own curriculum completely from scratch!

I covet your ongoing prayers and support as I finish this school year and prepare for the next, especially since I will be on my own as my parents are returning to Pennsylvania indefinitely in June.



Picture of the high school courtyard and library two weeks ago - we are definitely in rainy season!



High school students serving traditional food for Santa Cruz Day, dressed in traditional Santa Cruz clothes.

Praises

- Easily adjusting to life back in Santa Cruz.
- Great first semester experience at SCCLC.
- New friends and encouraging coworkers.
- Good connections with students.
- Family reunion at Christmas – first time all 6 Canaviris have been together at Christmas in over 3 years.
- Rebecca and Simon Smucker coming to Santa Cruz in February! ☺

Prayer Requests

- Strength and energy as I continue to essentially create three class curriculums from scratch.
- Upcoming high school and junior high camps: may students experience God in a new way and be able to grow spiritually.
- My parents as they prepare to make the difficult transition back to life in the USA after 20 years here in Santa Cruz.
- SCCLC staffing needs: many teachers are returning home and there are MANY positions that need to be filled by next year. If you ever wanted to teach overseas... come!



Canaviri siblings at Christmas.