

M A R C H 2 0 1 4

Fundación Totalá

“This is to my Father’s glory, that you bear much fruit, showing yourselves to be my disciples.” John 15:8

Staff Meeting

Dr. Ruth Obando

Community Arts and Crafts Class
Coordinator



How long have you been involved in this work and what does it consist of?

My friend Claudia and I started the classes eight years ago I’ve always loved arts and crafts and it was my dream to have a class for women, to have time to share together and be creative and to give them a chance to learn new skills with the goal of selling what they make to help their families. Our faith is shared through our character and actions and we have special events 3 times a year where the women hear the Gospel message.

What do the women enjoy most about the arts and crafts class?

It’s a chance for many of them to have a break from the daily struggles at home, to explore their creativity in a relaxed and friendly environment and to learn new skills. In the past few years we’ve learnt knitting, crochet, cross stitch, cold clay modeling, quilting and this year we’re learning to paint!

What do you like best about working with the women?

I enjoy sharing with them, building friendships and being there to listen to them.



Dr. Romina Ribera providing medical attention to a young patient

Medical Campaign for Flooding Victims

Trinidad has suffered greatly from recent flooding and thousands of families have been forced to leave their homes and move into camps, where tents have been donated by the government and NGOs. With the flooding and the contaminated water come many health problems, especially fungal skin infections, colds, bronchitis and other infections.

Fundación Totalá responded to this crisis in February by initiating a Medical Campaign to provide much needed healthcare and medicines to the families who are living as refugees in these camps, unable to return home until the water level drops. In some camps, there were health professionals who were also working to support these families, so Fundación Totalá worked together with these other organizations to provide the best possible care to patients.

A team of 4-6 workers have visited various camps in Trinidad, as well as the men’s and woman’s prisons, communities near the river, and isolated towns a few hours from Trinidad, where medical attention and medicines are unavailable.

Give thanks for the opportunity to reach out into the local community, and to work alongside other agencies to provide essential medical care and medicines to meet the needs of hundreds of patients

SPORTS

The sports work has been affected by the rain with the football teams being unable to train on their usual pitch as its still covered with water. They are training on a concrete basketball pitch until their pitch dries out.

Both the football and basketball ministries started back up in February and the children and young people are getting back into a rhythm of training, after a 2 month break over Christmas, when schools are on holiday.

Please pray for the coaches as they train with the children, and for the weekly Bible studies that form part of the training schedule.



Football coach San, with some of the young people who train in the football team

EDUCATION AND COMMUNITY



The community education classes started on the 31st March, a little later than planned, due to the heavy rain making it impossible for children to make it to class. The

classes are running 3 days a week. On Mondays, Elizabeth and Elias go to the Maná neighbourhood and classes are held in the local school for 7-12 year olds.

Classes are held twice a week at FT premises – on Wednesdays for 7-12 year olds and on Fridays for 4-6 year olds.

The Arts and Crafts class started on 1st March and this year painting is the focus. An average of 25 women attend every Saturday afternoon to receive instruction by a trained art teacher. The women are making great progress and many of them bring their children, who are also keen to learn to paint!

Please pray that these ministries will continue to provide opportunities to share God's love with our neighbours.

MORE ITEMS FOR PRAYER

- ✚ Pray for the families affected by the flooding in Trinidad and the surrounding area
- ✚ Pray for the continuing medical campaign and for the safety of the health team as they travel outside Trinidad to provide medical care to displaced families
- ✚ Pray for the sports, education and community classes that have started back up after the holiday period
- ✚ Give thanks for the safe arrival of Rachel Peebles, who will be working in the education and community area this year.
- ✚ Give thanks for the safe arrival of the Rivero Moreno family (KC, Maicol and Caleb) after spending 5 months in the USA with family
- ✚ Pray for Cameron Smith, a First Serve volunteer who will be arriving on 24th April for 3 months

Thank you so much for your continued support and prayers!



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