SNACK:

Api

10

Many of the people in Bolivia enjoy a warm glass of 'Api' in the morning for breakfast, along with some bread. It has a cool purple colour. If you can find purple cornmeal your version will also have this unique tint. (NOTE: the preparation for this drink will take some time. It's good to start the night before.)

Ingredients:

- Purple corn flour (white will do if you can't find this)
- Water
- Pineapple or lemon juice
- Cinnamon stick
- Cloves
- Sugar and/or cinnamon to taste

Instructions:

1. Mix 2 cups of corn flour with 6 cups of water in a bowl. oak for at least 2 hours, but it's preferable to soak overnight.
2. Add some pineapple or lemon juice the next morning and let it rest for another hour.
3. Strain the mixture to remove lumps.
4. In a pot, simmer the mixture with another 8 cups of water and a cinnamon stick and 3 cloves.
5. Stir with a wooden spoon until it thickens a little.
6. Add sugar and/or cinnamon to taste.
7. Enjoy!

Source: www.wikihow.com

FUNDRAISER:

Jail and Bail

Though the idea of living in prison is an all too stark reality, this game may help raise awareness of the situation in Bolivia as well as raise funds at the same time.

- Pick a special day where the whole church can participate (camp, special summer carnival, or a specific Sunday).
- Hand out "Nomination" sheets (a type of "warrant") where people can pay a set fee and nominate a person to be put in "Jail" (a designated space, even a hula hoop or sidewalk chalk circle with a chair inside).
- A "Sheriff" will issue the "Warrant" and take the nominated person to "Jail". They can choose to pay their "Bail" right away to get out, or sit for 5 minutes in the "Jail".
- Be sure to have handouts or share information about the Casa program (see www.cbmin.org).

PRAYER:

God is Always With Us

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Dear God, thank you for always being with us no matter where we are. You are our home-away-from-home and we know that we can always trust in you to take care of us. Please take care of children like Luis who cannot live with their mom or dad. Bless all the children at Casa, the children in Bolivia and the children here in Canada. Amen.

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My Home Away from Home in Bolivia

PRESENTED BY

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KIDS CARE

LEARNING OBJECTIVE	For children to learn about caring for the refugee & person in need
BIBLE APPLICATION	Matthew 25:35-36
KEY CONCEPT	God is always with us
MISSION ADVENTURE	Bolivia

BIBLE VERSE:

Matthew 25:35-36 | God is Always With Us

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INTRODUCTION:

The Bible is filled with stories that show how God wants us to care for the earth, other people, and ourselves. And he has a special heart for those in great need, such as refugees. God still takes special care of people like that today. We are all part of God's family, and together we are all children of God – that's why we have to look after each other. In these lessons, we will learn more about how we can respect and care for each other! … Read More (see *Introduction Sheet)*

BACKGROUND:

Bolivia

Bolivia is known as one of the poorest countries in South America. Nearly a quarter of its population lives in extreme poverty. The majority of Bolivians scrape by on a low income, working in subsistence farming, mining, small trades or the arts. Canadian Baptists have had a presence and relationship with Bolivia for more than a century. CBM partners with the Bolivian Baptist Union, one of whose projects is ministry among prison kids.

In the past, Bolivian penitentiaries had thousands of children living with their incarcerated parents. It was not because the children had committed crimes, but that no one else would care for them while their parent(s) were serving their sentence. The only option was for children to live in the prison system with their parents. These children are extremely vulnerable, and their requirements for healthy physical and social development are seldom met in these settings. As of January 2015, the government acted on an existing law that prohibits children over the age of 6 to live in prison. As a result, the children were sent to live with extended family members or a group home. Contact with their parents occurs through scheduled visits.

Both the younger children living in the prison as well as the older children living outside in foster care continue to face many difficulties. Casa de la Amistad (Friendship House) exists to help these children deal with the challenges they face. Caring staff work to provide a nurturing environment where children receive educational support, nutritious meals, training in day-to-day tasks such as personal and dental hygiene, and spiritual counselling for both them and their families.

For many of these kids, home can be an unstable environment. Casa de la Amistad provides a special home-away-from-home where they are given an opportunity to thrive and grow. With proper education, care and spiritual guidance, they have a chance at a better future. The impact of this program on the lives of these children has had lasting effects, and some have even returned as volunteers.

FUN FACTS:

Because Bolivia is in South America, their seasons are opposite from Canadians. So when it's summer here, it's winter over there. Their summer break happens in December and January!

- Bolivians raise llamas or alpacas for their thick, warm wool and also for their meat.
- A typical breakfast is bread with a glass of "Api", which is a sweetened drink made from ground corn.
- A typical lunch is soup. It's usually made from quinoa, corn, pumpkin or potatoes. A popular one is with peanuts.
- Because of the many tall mountains in Bolivia (such as the Andes), it is nicknamed the "Rooftop of the World".
- Bolivia has three official languages: Spanish, and the indigenous languages of Aymará and Quechua.
- A favourite sport is fútbol (soccer).

Source: https://prezi.com/nqgldzyyejar/if-you-were-a-child-in-bolivia

MISSION ADVENTURE STORY:

My Home Away from Home in Bolivia

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Hola (Hi)! My name is Luis* and I am 8 years old. I live with my mom and dad and younger brother in prison. We have been here for six years already. Mom said that dad made a big mistake and had to go to prison, and so we had to go live there also. Mom worries about my brother and I growing up in prison, but she wants us to stay together as a family. During the day, we are free to come and go from the prison. It is just my dad who has to stay inside.

Life is hard for mom and dad. They fight a lot. I want them to be happy. I don't like it when they fight. Dad is worried that mom wants to leave him and go live outside the prison. Mom is worried because soon I have to leave. A new law does not allow kids over 6 years old to stay in prison with their family. I will be going to live with my uncle.

I will miss my dad's food. He is a good chef. My favourite food is Pique macho and Fricase (fried meat on top of French fries). He cooks and sells food to other people in prison because we need money to pay rent for our two small rooms here in prison**.

I go to school for part of the day. I am in Grade Two and like math. But I was sad that I had nowhere to play until mom heard about Casa. Now I have a nice, big place where I can play and I also get help with my homework. I also like playing football (soccer) and basketball.

I am happy that people at Casa also visit mom and dad. They are trying to help them not to fight so much. We learn many things at Casa, like how to be healthy by washing our hands and eating vegetables. We also learn about how much God loves us. Every morning I pray and ask God to help us.

*name has been changed

**Note: In Bolivia, prisoners have to pay rent for a small space, if they want some privacy. Sometimes a cell is 1 x 2 metres. They also have to pay for their own food and other personal hygiene and family needs.

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS:

1. Why does Luis live in prison with his family? (*Some parents have no other options, like willing relatives/friends and/or they want to keep the family together.)*
2. Where does Luis go during the day? *(school and Casa)*
3. How is Casa helping Luis and his family? *(play area, tutoring, sharing God's love, etc.)*
4. What are some of the problems that you and/or your family have? *(Older children can write on slips of paper, then fold and tape or paste to a cross you have drawn or made with paper. Pray for things shared by the children.)*
5. How can we here at church be like Casa and help families in our community? *(Make a list of their suggestions and pick one to work on over the next year as a class or church; alternatively, encourage kids/families to volunteer at services that already exist.)*

DISCUSSION ACTIVITY:

Family is very important to Luis. *(Show his drawing on front cover of lesson).* What is your family like? *(Have children draw a picture of their family and write something interesting about their family that they like. Encourage the class to share their drawings and their answers afterwards.*
Post their pictures up.)

ACTIVITY:

Spinning Top with a Colour Twist

10

One popular game among Bolivian children is to spin a top called a trompos. Here is a creative spin on a spinning top made from old CDs.

Materials: Old CDs, markers (thick enough for the hole in the middle of the CD), tape, large sheets of paper

Instructions: Take an old CD, put a marker through the centre so that the tip is about a third of the way down. Use the tape to secure it in place. Then let the kids spin away on the large sheet of paper and see the many designs that are created.

Note: For younger children, see enclosed activity sheet with a fun maze on our Bible verse.

Source: http://artfulparent.com