

# Talea and Lucca (still) in Venezuela



YMCA Margarita



## ¿Cómo nos ha ido últimamente?

### HOW HAVE WE BEEN DOING LATELY?

We are doing **very well** and look back gratefully on fulfilling weeks. God's provision is wonderful, and we sincerely **thank everyone who makes our ministry possible!**

June and July were **quieter** at the YMCA. Due to the much-needed **rainy season in June**, many children attended irregularly – everyday life here often comes to a standstill when it rains, similar to a power outage in Munich. Things picked up again in July, but with the **holidays approaching**, the children's concentration slipped.

A special highlight was a **visit to a Christian teacher and her husband**, who invited us to their home and took us to a large interdenominational event. A few weeks later, we also attended a regular church service with them. Our church has now moved its services to the evening – a nice change, as they have been given a piece of land, but without a building to provide shade. The late return home is a challenge due to limited local transportation, but so far we have always found a solution. The YMCA has been on **summer break since July 11**. The teachers have three weeks off, and we are also using the time to relax and recharge our batteries – and we have already experienced and accomplished quite a bit.



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doing lately?

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## Nuestras experiencias de los últimos meses

### OUR EXPERIENCES OVER THE LAST FEW MONTHS



### Visita en Alemania

#### VISIT IN GERMANY

We had a **wonderful time** in Germany, seeing many friends again and attending a beautiful wedding. Although our stay was short and packing for Venezuela and traveling to Italy with Lucca's family was a bit hectic, we are **grateful for these special moments**. After a few relaxing days in Sicily, we continued on to Madrid and ...



### Caracas

#### CARACAS



...from there, we traveled to Caracas, where we met Vanda and her mother. From May 27 to June 2, we explored the **capital of Venezuela**, which has over 3 million inhabitants. The city is very densely populated and seems crowded and dirty. Nevertheless, we were impressed by the **large parks with unusually wild animals** – in one city park there were enclosures for monkeys, crocodiles, and even a jaguar.



### Colonia Tovar

#### GERMAN COLONY

We also visited the nearby **German village** of Colonia Tovar, which is located in the green mountains surrounding Caracas. The village was founded in the 19th century by German settlers and preserves many **German traditions and architecture**. The houses are half-timbered and restaurants serve German cuisine. The mountain-climate even allows berries to be grown there.



### YMCA Valencia

#### YMCA VALENCIA

We then continued our journey by bus to Valencia. There, the **local YMCA** not only provided us with accommodation for two days, but also gave us a tour of the premises and looked after us with the **utmost courtesy, as if we were state guests**. On June 4, we traveled back to the island from there.



### Donación de ropa

#### CLOTHING DONATION

After a brief adjustment period, our ministry resumed as normal. On June 20, we accompanied Margi, a teacher, to a **very poor area of the island**, where about ten children and mothers were waiting for us. A **donation of clothing** had arrived from **Madrid**, and Margi had sorted it before we distributed it together. On July 9, the **children at the YMCA** also received such bags. What was particularly nice was that 15 of them contained **Bibles**, which could be distributed thanks to a mission group that had organized donors and information about children without Bibles.



## Nuestras experiencias de los últimos meses

OUR EXPERIENCES OVER THE LAST FEW MONTHS



### Fiesta de graduación YMCA

#### YMCA GRADUATION CEREMONY

On the last regular YMCA day of the school year, a farewell party was held, which many parents attended. The kids performed a **play** based on the biblical story of Daniel, featuring a **dance** choreographed by Talea. There were also other dances and **musical performances** from the courses taught by the couple who teach music and dance here. During the celebration, we were able to **pray for the families** and organize a short **spiritual program**. It was a beautiful yet exhausting day.

### Fiesta escolar

#### SCHOOL CEREMONY

On July 11, we had the opportunity to witness the **last day of school for the sixth graders** before they move on to a **new school** after the summer break. Afterwards, we celebrated the successful end of the school year with the teachers.

At the **official graduation ceremony** on July 30, not only the **students** but also **teachers, parents**, and even the **YMCA instructors were honored** – a special moment for everyone.



## Nuestro servicio y nuestras tareas

### OUR SERVICE AND OUR TASKS

During the week, we had about 15–20 minutes **before class started** for a **christian devotional** – usually a **game**, a **song**, and a **Bible verse**. Often, a teacher would tell a **story** from an illustrated children's Bible, or we would share **testimonies and the basics of faith**.

On **Fridays**, there was more time for a **more detailed program** with games, songs, and a devotional. For illustration purposes, we occasionally rehearsed a short **play** or showed pictures. A **children's church video from the GLC**, which we were able to show, was particularly nice, **as were the lovingly designed pictures** we distributed. The joy was great – and as a thank you, the children recorded a video for the German children.

Since June 14, we have been giving regular **English lessons for young people** on **Saturdays**. Many new faces came to the first lesson. Although they actually came for English, we had the impression that we should start with a **Bible study** – something that God had made clear to us in prayer. So we began with a short spiritual reflection, combined it with English, and prayed together. Since then, it has become a fixed structure: we **start with a video on the Sermon on the Mount** from the Bible Project and discuss it before the English lesson begins. With God's help, both are going well – the young people come regularly and with great openness.

The **holiday program** that we planned with the teachers and Romulo will take place in **August**. It runs on **weekdays from 8 a.m. to 12 p.m.** and is open to all children in the area for \$6 per month. Activities such as bracelet making, face painting, games, Christian devotions, movies, and a trip to the beach are planned.

**Thank you to all donors** who make it possible for children whose families cannot afford the fee to participate – and who finance the bus for the beach trip!





## ¿Qué sigue ahora?

### WHAT HAPPENS NEXT?

When we left Valencia in **June**, an airport official approached us and said that this was our second visit to the country, which was **not actually permitted**. You are only allowed to **stay in Venezuela for 90 days within a year** and then have to wait a year before you can re-enter the country. In Caracas, we had **previously been granted entry without any problems**. We were initially shocked, as we were unaware of this regulation. While the official checked our passports and began counting the days, **we prayed** that he would only see what he was supposed to see – and indeed, by some **miracle**, he came up with a wrong number below 90 and **let us continue our journey**.

It was clear to us that we had to look into the matter so that we would not encounter any difficulties when leaving Caracas.

God brought us into contact with a friend of Vanda's who accompanied us to the authorities and **applied for a visa extension**. However, this is only valid for a **maximum of three months**. We began to pray and both had the impression that we should leave in September. That is why we are **flying back to Germany at the end of September**.

For our planned departure in September, we already **had to report to the authorities in Caracas** and will have to do so **twice more**. We are combining this with a **visit to another YMCA in Anaco** and are very grateful that **we can stay with Vanda's mother during our time in Caracas**, who lovingly supports us and helps us find our way around the big city.

The decision is not an easy one for us. On the one hand, we are **looking forward to seeing family and friends**, but on the other hand, it **hurts to leave the children and people** who have grown dear to our hearts here **earlier** than expected. However, our year of service does not end there: we are currently **looking for a mission service that we can support for the rest of the time** – until the beginning of next year.



## Peticiones de oración

### PRAYER REQUESTS

- **Successful vacation program**
- **Spiritual and natural provision** for the YMCA and its members
- **Leadership** in the search for **new ministry**
- **Wisdom** in the use of time and resources

Thank you very much for your support, no matter in what way. May the Lord bless you and repay you a hundredfold!

¡Un saludo y hasta la próxima!



Register for the newsletter via the website: [Lucca and Talea Herrmann](https://luccaandtaleaherrmann.org)



@[luccaherrmann](https://www.instagram.com/luccaherrmann) and @[taaleaa](https://www.instagram.com/taaleaa)



E-Mail: [lucca-talea.herrmann@globemission.org](mailto:lucca-talea.herrmann@globemission.org)

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