

Dear Angela and Family,

We hope that you are fine and healthy enjoying life with your relatives and friends. I'm glad to be here to write you our last report of 2017. In this report I'm going to write some of the activities we have had lately in our country and the latest news about your godchild Nataly Molina.

Probably you know that we celebrate our independence during September, the whole month is full of activities, especially the days close to September 15th. After that, usually children get ready to do the final exams during the two first weeks of October. At the end of October the classes end and the vacations begin.

During November there is usually a lot of wind all around the country, and it is the custom for children to fly kites. The two first days of the month we also celebrate the Day of Dead and All Saints Day, locals prepares a special food named "fiambre" it is pretty much a salad which includes numerous sausages and cold cuts, pickled baby corn and onion, beets, pacaya flower, different cheeses, olives, chicken, and sometimes even brussels sprouts. It is a very happy celebration and all the families come together to eat fiambre but also sweet desserts of the season. As the fiambre has more than 50 ingredients it is very expensive to prepare, usually in rural areas people make their own cheaper recipe , or only cook sweet pumpkin which is more affordable.

During November and December is the best time to harvest coffee in our area. As the children are having school vacation it is very common that the whole family goes to cut coffee. That way, families earn something more and they can buy few things during Christmas.

This time has something especial, the weather is great! it has a perfect combination of wind and sun, the children spend more time with their parents and the holiday season is close.

For Christmas and New Year people prepare tamales and a hot beverage of fruits called "ponche". Again this meal is a bit expensive but the families get together to afford the cost of the ingredients and in most of the cases the women of the family make the tamales and ponche. These traditions and these meals unite families and it's a beautiful time where everyone shares.

Happily, I have nothing but good news about Nataly; she is a great student who finished 7th grade this year, she is happy and ready to continue studying next year. Last month Nataly went to our base in Zapote to do an exam and apply for a scholarship for 2018, as I mentioned she is a great student and she passed the exam without difficulties. Some weeks ago I talked to Nataly and she told that she has studied in Ceylan her entire life but she is thinking to continue her education next year in Osuna. Osuna is a village between Ceylan and Zapote and by bus it is more or less 30 minutes far from Ceylan. Nataly says that the education in Osuna is more complete and her main goal is learn a lot even though she needs to take the bus every day. The decision has not yet been made and I will be informing you in the next report which will be the decision that Nataly will take.





Three months ago Nataly also went to our base to be attended by a dentist. Once again this year we had the opportunity to count with the visit of some dentists from Spain, they are part of an amazing team called "Una Sonrisa para Centroamerica". We have been working very hard in dental health and finally this year we saw great advances. Children are currently brushing their teeth and taking more care about them, additionally they are less afraid to dentists (which is a huge step).

Nataly is very well, she is healthy and is developing right according to her age. Nataly is very thankful that you are thinking of her and helping her. Living in a remote area like Ceylan is very hard because they have limited access to many things that do not help them grow and move forward. Since Nataly has your support her life is much better and she is glad that you have the desire to help others .

Nataly ,her mother Ericka and the rest of the family want to send a million of thanks and also take the opportunity to wish you Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year 2018.

The Vamos Adelante team is glad to greet you one more time, we really want to hear from you and if it is possible write us an email to let us know how everything is going with you. From the deep of our hearts we wish you the best during this holiday season and a wonderful New Year.

Ingrid and the Vamos Adelante team

