

THE BOLICK REPORT



November 2021

“A Wide Door for Effective Work Has Opened to Me”

That’s a phrase Paul used in I Cor. 16:9 that we often use in our prayers. Once again, we find God doing more than we could imagine or ask for. The pandemic may have closed some doors, but Zoom, prayer, and the Holy Spirit opened others.



SEVEN NEW COUNTRIES TO START GIRLS’ CLUBS, PLUS TEXAS!

For the past four months we have been in conversations with partners throughout Latin America exploring the possibility of launching a pilot program in each country.

To date, mission partners in *Costa Rica, El Salvador, Nicaragua (World Vision), The Dominican Republic, Bolivia, Ecuador, Mexico, and the Texas-Mexico border* region (these in Texas are with Cooperative Baptist Fellowship/Fellowship Southwest churches) will sponsor pilot *Talita Cumi* Girl’s Club programs in churches and communities.

With these clubs we may have **more than 500 girls** participating in *Talita Cumi* Girls’ Clubs beginning the third week of January.

The Girls’ Clubs materials now consist of a **full two years of curriculum**. For the book we used photos of girls around the world from International Ministries’ archives, acknowledging with gratitude that we come from a long tradition of a missiology that supports work in human development and in empowering women.

Writing the lessons and the guides for mentors has **been a team effort, with colleague contributors** Adalia Gutierrez, Melissa Gutierrez, Sarah Nash Matos, Sharon Buttry, and Ruth Mooney. Sarah Matos has been indispensable in the editing and contextualizing process of the final version of the materials.

Equipping local church women to be mentors begins in December. This is fundamental to everything we are doing. **Barbara will be training one program coordinator in each country who will in turn train and support the mentors** throughout the pilot project.

A special thanks goes to our Area Director, Adalia Gutierrez, who has cultivated these partnerships for the project. Special mention goes to our dear friends and colleagues, Ruth Mooney, and Sue Hegarty, who are heading our efforts in Costa Rica, to Ketly Pierre, who is coordinating our efforts in the Dominican Republic, to Patricia Cofre, in Ecuador, and to Sarah Matos, in Bolivia.

As these Girls’ Clubs meet over the next two years, we will be performing an **official outcome evaluation** of the ways *Talita Cumi* is impacting the lives of the girls who are participating, as part of my graduate research at **Texas A&M University**.

With this information we will be able to identify best practices that we can share with practitioners developing other programs reaching under-served pre-adolescent girls, and we will be able to apply to funding sources for financial support that will allow for the sustainable expansion of the program within each country.

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