

ship international

S U M M E R 2 0 2 4 : S H I N I N G A L I G H T



You are the sun!

This girl shines. Whether it's through her bright, smiling face, the bedazzled baseball caps she loves to wear, or the way she enters a room and instantly starts making friends, this little one lives her life like a ball of sunshine. We are so blessed that she is a part of our school.

Her name is Génesis, a name that couldn't be more perfect because it speaks of beginnings, of the hope for a bright future that we see in each of our students.

Our friends in El Salvador can imagine those bright futures more easily now. The country is safer; the gangs aren't a threat. Hope doesn't seem like a foolish feeling. It feels like a real possibility.

When the world looks peaceful and hopeful, we often don't feel the need to look to something greater than ourselves. The light that we see in

Génesis has been shining since long before the gangs were locked up, back when our Salvadoran neighborhood wasn't safe. Her light is a light that comes from spending each day in a school where she's shown God's love, where she's pointed toward the true source of Light.

Years ago, the singer Sara Groves wrote these lyrics:

*You are the sun shining down on everyone.
And I am the moon with no light of my own.
Still you have made me to shine,
And as I glow in this, cold dark night, I know I can't
be a light unless I turn my face to you.*

At SHIP, our job is to keep looking to the Son, to let His light keep reflecting off our faces, to show His light to our students so that they can reflect that light in all they do.



SHIP Trippers on our June 2024 trip got such great pictures of our school. Clockwise from upper left: A Kinder-4 student comes to school in the morning; the new school building, housing 1st through 4th grade; our 2nd grade students are caught having fun in their brand new classroom.

Recently, one of our teachers asked us to pray for wisdom as she teaches the Bible to her students. She remarked: “The children are disciples, too.”

It’s easy to lose sight of that fact. The word “disciple” seems so big, and the students at SHIP’s school are so small. But, these little ones spend time each day learning about Jesus, learning what it means to be like Him and to follow His Word. They learn to carry His word in their hearts and to share it with a world that doesn’t know Him and His love for us all.

For many of our students, that world starts at home. We anticipated that when we started the school. We named the school Colegio La Luz de Jesús—The Light of Jesus School—because we wanted Jesus’ light to shine through the darkness, to shine through our students.

This school year started with a brand new building, new Kinder-4 students, and with our first year of offering fourth grade. When we get excited about a new classroom building, it’s not just because our students will have a beautiful new place to learn. We want to show our students’ parents how much we value their children, to give them a small glimpse of how deeply both they and their children are valued by God.

The words of I John 3:1 say, “Behold what manner of love the Father has given to us, that we should be called children of God.” We cannot give this gift to our students and their families, but each gift that we give points to the One who can.

*And a
little child
shall lead
them...*

SHIP’S SCHOOL

Way back in 2019, the first year our school was open, a tradition was born—Sports Day. It takes place at the sports fields of another school close to us.

Sports Day is filled with pomp and circumstance. The kids have opening ceremonies and, after a day of fierce competition, winners are announced. Sports Day is also filled with fun and family. Competition isn't just among the students; parents join in, too.

When you think about it, there aren't a whole lot of opportunities to compete as a team with your child. And, through a series of challenging (and sometimes wacky) events, our students' parents get to become teammates with their kids. Sports Day brings families together and brings our school together.

Sadly, the community in which we work has many broken families, including families within our school. Some families are broken as one parent leaves the country to find work; some are broken through divorce or abandonment. On Sports Day, our students' extended family, our school family, and our mission trip members come together to support all of our students.

Through all of the fun, we're reminded that every child needs a cheering section. As our teacher Mr. Marlon said during closing ceremony, this year's competition showed us that the end results of the races, especially for our littlest students, depended on the parents just as much as they depend on the students, so we need to make sure we get in shape for next year.

*I have
finished
the race*

SPORTS DAY 2024



Our talented university student, Cecilia Telles, captured these moments from our school's 2024 Sports Day. Clockwise from upper left: Kinder-4 students take a break from competition; our student Kevin represents first grade; fourth graders win first place for their competition level.

ship

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Annual Luncheon
September 26th!
Learn more inside...



Let your light shine!

We love seeing these smiling faces of our Kinder-6 students taking a break during our school's Sports Day

When we started putting this newsletter together, we thought about fixing this photo so that our little guy, Carlos, wasn't standing in a ray of sunshine all by himself. (It's barely noticeable, but we can be perfectionists sometimes.) But, the more we looked at this photo, the more we liked that ray of sunshine.

Our school, Colegio La Luz de Jesús—The Light of Jesus School—is all about letting the Light shine in us and through us. We teach our students that we are to let our lights shine before others, that they may see our good deeds and glorify our Father in heaven.

We hope you have fun reading this issue of our newsletter and seeing how the Light shines at our school.

