

## Adventures in the Mission Field (#2)

By: Jackson Varga

Hi again from Bethany Village! My family and I have been very busy this last month since we moved into another house on the airstrip. But, we have still found time to visit three very special friends that we want to tell you about.



Over a month ago a missionary family who has since moved, took us to see a very interesting sight. Located at the end of the airstrip we found a hummingbird nest with two small eggs inside, but the mother wasn't there. On our first visit we took lots of pictures of the nest and eggs. When we came back two days later, I was able to get a very close-up picture of the mother bird on her nest. She was bold enough to stay there until I got about 3 inches away with the camera. Then she flew off revealing that the babies underneath had hatched!



From then on we visited the nest every couple of days. When the babies first hatched they were about the size of a pinto bean, and their eyes were not open yet. Nine days later we noticed that their eyes were open, and they were starting to grow feathers. About a month later when we visited the nest only one baby bird was left. The next day we came back and the other one was gone too. We miss visiting our friends, but we saw God's care and protection for them during the last month. So, we know that He will take care of them as they have now left their nest!



About two years ago, an elder in our church where we lived on the reservation told me that he liked to hold the string of his hummingbird feeder while the hummingbirds came to feed. This way he could see them up close. So one day I went outside and tried that too. Finally, a hummingbird came and started to drink. The next day I went outside, but this time I held the feeder from underneath so the hummingbirds would land on my finger. The hummingbirds weren't very sure about this arrangement, but eventually one came and landed on my finger.



This continued for several months until one by one they started to leave for the winter. The next spring, the hummingbirds started to return, but most of them were young hummingbirds. Many of them wouldn't land on my hand. Finally, a hummingbird from the year before came back. He remembered that I wouldn't hurt him and landed on my hand. This broke the ice! All the other hummingbirds started landing on my hand also. I don't know what would have happened the next year, because we moved. We are now learning about hummingbirds, like our three friends we told you about here, in South America!

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