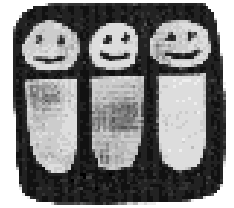


THE QUITO CONNECTION

THE FOR HIS CHILDREN NEWSLETTER

MAY/JUNE 2002



NEW MATERNITY WING AT FHC

Yes, in the last few months, a Maternity wing was built at FHC. In early April, just outside Clark and Melinda's bedroom window, a pigeon "wove" a nest and laid two little eggs. We tried to discourage her, knowing that her nest would mean our window would be unusable for at least a couple of months. When Melinda and Clark returned from the For His Children Board of Directors' meeting in Los Angeles in early May, the nest was built and soon the eggs were hatched. It was fun for us to peek out the curtains every morning and watch the babies grow. The mother bird was really diligent; she was busy all day long finding food for her babies. At night, despite some very cold temperatures in the month of May, she kept the chicks warm. Sadly, only one chick survived the month, and a few weeks later, the other chick also died. So the Maternity Wing on the windowsill is now closed; hopefully to reopen next Spring!



perfect name. Now, six months later, his proud parents are José and Aura Bowie. Aura has been a volunteer at FHC and is now on "maternity leave"! José is a captain in the U.S. Army, stationed with the United States Military Group in Quito. Once paperwork was completed and the Ecuadorian Welfare Department gave their approval to the Bowie family to adopt, they took their bundle of joy home. The Bowies stop by often to visit, and they are very proud of their beautiful son. Gabriel is healthy, happy, gaining weight, and sleeping through the night! The Bowies will be leaving Ecuador in August for their next military service assignment, and our love and prayers go with them.

CELEBRATING NEW BEGINNINGS

Since our last newsletter, eight of FHC's children, Gabriel, (9 months), Bryan Alejandro (2), Marisa Joy (1), Marianela (2), Josué (10 months), Nicolas (11 months), Maria Gloria (1), and Adrian (2) met their adoptive families.

Melinda first saw **Gabriel** in early November 2001 in the Maternity Hospital and his appearance was angelic. He was wrapped in a white sheet, as tight as a cocoon, and the nurse and social worker agreed with the description, and "Gabriel" seemed the

When Lars and Karin-Anne Bonstrom and their daughter Fanny met **Bryan** on April 14th, he was cautious, uncertain of what his response should be to this excited and enthusiastic threesome

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who traveled all the way from Sweden. Within a few days, Bryan was ready to venture out to visit the hotel where his new family was staying, and after a couple more days, he was ready to leave the “nest” of FHC. On May 16th, after the paperwork was completed, the family of four flew home to Malung, Sweden, where Lars works as a supervisor, and Karin is a psychologist.

As with all our children, we plan a party for the families a few days before they are scheduled to leave Ecuador. At the party, we present the family with their child’s beautiful, personalized Baby Book. Cindy Snyder artistically puts together memories of the child’s life at FHC, including lots of photos, a lock of hair, the child’s first hand and footprints, letters written by our caregivers to the child, as well as copies of the child’s legal and medical documents. When possible, we save the child’s arrival clothes, package them up with ribbon, and present them to the family. Sometimes we obtain the local Quito newspaper from the child’s birthday. This is what took place at the party on May 15th, when we presented Bryan and his family, as well as Marisa and her parents with lots of special memories of their lives at FHC.

Roger and Caroline Wernholm were at the party, too, as the new parents of **Marisa Joy**. Roger and Caroline call Drottningholm, Sweden their home. They arrived on April 15th to meet their daughter for the first time. Marisa arrived at FHC in



June of 2001 from the government Maternity Hospital where she was born. Marisa also was uncertain of her new parents at first, but they soon won her heart as they arrived at FHC every morning and spent the day with her, feeding her, changing her diapers, showering her with love and attention. At home in Sweden, Caroline works as a secretary, and Roger is a firefighter. We are happy for these two families, and pray the Lord’s abundant blessings on them.

On May 26th, two year old **Marianela** met her parents, Shannon and Katrina Menard of Jonesboro, Arkansas, at FHC. Marianela was born in the province of Morona Santiago. After the social worker at the juvenile court of the province called and asked FHC to receive a tiny newborn baby girl, she went to the airport and talked to various passengers until she found a

family willing to take care of Marianela during the forty-five minute flight who then delivered the baby to Melinda waiting at the Quito airport. Once safe and warm at FHC, she was tenderly



cared for by our staff, especially Myriam, our social worker, who breast fed the tiny malnourished baby. As she grew, she charmed us all with her mischievous personality and her skill on the trampoline.

Dad, Shannon, works as a computer programmer, and Katrina is a teacher, and is looking forward to being a full-time mom to Marianela. Our kind neighbors across the street, Rob and Barbara Quiring, opened their home to the Menards and invited them to house sit while they are on vacation in the States in June and July. This meant Marianela could be close by to play with her “sisters and brothers” at FHC. On July 6th, Katrina and Marianela left Quito to join Shannon in Arkansas who had flown home earlier.

Josué Sebastian’s family arrived on June 4th. Pablo and Margarita tiptoed in and met their son while he was taking a mid-



morning nap. They blew him kisses and marveled at his little shoes, set out at the foot of his crib, wiping tears from their eyes. As with many of our children, it is a delight for us to witness the “birth” of a new family. The parents can hardly contain their joy,

and they shower their new son or daughter with tender care and attention. The child is often cautious at first, wondering if this enthusiastic couple is just visiting for the day. Then he notices that this couple only has eyes for him, and they cater to his every whim. Their only desire is to make him smile and laugh, and they treasure that first hug from their child like a priceless gift. So it was with Josué, Margarita and Pablo. Within a few days, Josué was feeling comfortable with his new parents and they said good-bye to all of us at FHC and headed for their hotel in Quito. In La Coruña, Spain, Pablo works as a dental prosthesis technician, and Margarita is a teacher. Josue is their first child.

Nicolas' family, Luca and Anna Vitali, from Trento, Italy, arrived next, on June 6th. Our caregivers had dressed Nicolas in a new outfit and sat him on the rug in the playroom in the Vaughn's baby home. Melinda met them first in FHC's office, where they had been patiently waiting ten or fifteen minutes (an ETERNITY). Their arrival was scheduled for 10:00 am, but just that morning



we received a phone call that the family would be arriving at FHC at 8:30 am. So we were in a rush, bathing, feeding and dressing and preparing Nicolas to welcome his family.

Here at FHC, we LOVE tears...that is when they come from a new mom and dad meeting their child for the first time! Tears of joy, of amazement, of rejoicing, of wonder especially in the case of Nicolas. We watched him defy the medical professionals who said he was "very high risk and may not survive." Imagine the joy in our hearts as Luca and Anna held Nicolas for the first time, kissed him and breathed him in. There are no words to describe it!

At home in Italy, Luca is a dental prosthesis technician. Anna works in small fruit processing business. On July 3rd Nicolas celebrated his first birthday at FHC with his new family and then they traveled home on July 11th.

On June 9th, Keith and Pam Anderson arrived from Toccoa, Georgia. The day was one that a lot of people had been waiting for, when **Maria Gloria** would meet her forever family. Keith, Pam, and their three beautiful children, Kaleigh (10), Kit (6) and Kurtis (2), first heard about Maria Gloria through friends, Bill and Ellen Evans, teachers at the Alliance Academy in Quito. The Andersons

had been thinking about adopting, and then they heard about Maria Gloria in January of this year. Lots of serious prayer brought them to the decision to say "yes". Pam is a homemaker and full time mom and Keith works as a quality control supervisor at an electronics manufacturing plant. Maria Gloria was born very



prematurely at 26 weeks. She has met the challenges of detached retinas in both eyes, followed by several surgeries during the past year... all with amazing strength and determination.

Dan and Gail Manley were her foster parents for six months. Gail accompanied Melinda to the Maternity Hospital in Quito the day FHC received a tiny premature baby girl in April 2001. It was love at first sight. Gail asked if she and Dan could be foster parents, and together with help from others in the mission community, they lovingly cared for this lovely baby girl until February 2002, when the Manleys moved from Quito to the U.S. Dan and Gail and many people in Ecuador and the U.S. prayed daily that God would provide the perfect family for Maria Gloria and He did.

FHC's part in the story has come to a close, and yet the story is just beginning for Karissa Maria Gloria Anderson and her new family. Please keep them daily in your prayers!

June 11th was a great day for the Snyders when they witnessed the perfect "chemistry" that took place between **Adrian**, 2, and his new parents, Antonio and Daniela Vuotti. In fact, the chemistry was so perfect that within 36 hours Adrian was waving goodbye to



our caregivers and tugging his parents by the hand toward the taxi that would take them to their hotel in Quito. Home for Adrian is now Milan, Italy, where Antonio works as an industrial inspector and Daniela works as a part time accountant. The family left from Quito on July 12th.

At FHC, we plan a "transition" period for the children when they meet their parents. We encourage the adoptive families to spend time at FHC to get to know their new son or daughter, their likes, dislikes, and habits. This time together helps the child begin to trust his parents and feel comfortable with them. The child begins to make that transition from depending on our caregivers, to depending on his parents. When we see this process underway, we give the OK for the parents to take the child to their hotel for the duration of their stay in Ecuador. Each child is different, every family is different, and some transitions take longer than others. With Adrian, he showed us he was ready to graduate from FHC, a sign that our months of caring, nurturing and preparing have been successful.

We wish all of our precious adopting families God's richest blessings.

NEW ARRIVALS

Cynthia arrived April 11th, after a three-hour bus ride from Ambato, a city south of Quito. She was found on the very back seat of a bus and taken to the hospital, where she stayed for almost

a month. The children's home in Ambato called FHC to receive the tiny baby girl as the doctors couldn't pinpoint a diagnosis for her. Here at FHC, a genetic test was "normal", so we will continue to investigate other possible diagnoses given by the doctors. Meanwhile, Cynthia is doing well. She is tiny, (seven pounds at almost four months of age), but she eats well and sleeps well, and so far has

no serious health problems. She is the perfect definition of a sweetheart! We would appreciate prayers for a clear medical prognosis.

Dayana, 3 1/2 years old, was welcomed at FHC after being brought home from Baca Ortiz Children's Hospital in Quito. Dayana's story began when she disappeared from Mrs. Flores' (her foster grandmother) vending stand in a Quito park. For one year, Dayana was missing, until one day Mrs. Flores was notified that a three year old girl was at the children's hospital, recovering from

severe physical abuse, malnutrition, and was now diagnosed with severe brain damage. The pieces of the puzzle still aren't very clear, but we suspect Dayana was used by street gangs to elicit sympathy and money from passersby. Mrs. Flores said she could not care for Dayana because of her severe special needs. Mrs. Flores cares for three other foster grandchildren. Her monthly income of \$80 is barely enough to cover the needs of the family. There are no other relatives, and Dayana's mother is living and working in Spain. Please pray for this little girl with many very special needs.



Klever arrived on June 4th, also from Ambato. Klever melts hearts after just one glance.



He was sent to FHC after being hospitalized for pneumonia in May. He was battling an intestinal virus, dehydration and malnutrition (nine pounds at nine months of age). Now, several weeks later, he weighs seventeen pounds, and is having a great time charming all of us at FHC.

Ten month old **Maria Cristina** was brought to FHC by the director of a preschool in a town north of Quito. Her mother complained of severe headaches, and was admitted to a local hospital in early June. When she was discharged, she did not return to the preschool for her two children. Maria Cristina is a beautiful little girl. She is so tolerant when our caregivers braid her hair. Please pray for a prompt resolution of Maria Cristina's legal status.



GOING HOME

As many of our friends and supporters already know, two FHC children died in the past two months. **Abigail** (“Abby”) died unexpectedly April 26th. Just that afternoon the doctor said she was



recovering well from a recent pneumonia. Within an hour, her oxygen level began to drop. Despite performing CPR all the way to the hospital, she was pronounced dead when we arrived. Abby was two and a half, and surprised so many people as she wasn’t expected to live more than two hours when she first came to FHC in October 2000. Abby had serious neurological problems, and while we know that she was very much “at risk”, we came to love her deeply and appreciated the joy she brought to us at FHC.

On Monday, May 6th, tiny **Juan David** died after being hospitalized just hours earlier for an intestinal obstruction. Juan David was almost two, and was as tiny as a newborn. He also had serious neurological problems caused by a lack of oxygen just prior to birth. Juan David had not felt well the night before, and in the morning we took him to our pediatrician. He recommended immediate hospitalization, with surgery planned that afternoon for an intestinal obstruction. Unfortunately, an infection set in and the doctors were unable to operate. His condition deteriorated rapidly, and he died a few hours later.



God blessed us all at FHC with beautiful memorial services for Abby and Juan David. We invited neighbors and friends to FHC to celebrate Abby’s short life, and we gathered at the chapel at Vozandes Hospital for a time to remember and say goodbye to Juan David. The loss of these two children deeply affected our caregivers. Please keep them in your prayers.

Thank you to all who have prayed and sent notes and e-mails of encouragement. We miss Abby and Juan David, yet we know they are in the arms of Jesus and there’s no better place to be!

A NEW FACE AT FHC

We are very pleased to introduce Dr. Patricia Albuja, our part-time psychologist. Patricia joined FHC in February of this year, and has been such a support and encouragement to us, that she will join us full time in August. Patricia brings more than ten

years of working in a children’s home and working with adoptions. She has been helping us with lots of needs here at FHC, with family counseling, employee relations and management, evaluations and therapy with some of our children, the list goes on and on. We would appreciate your prayers for Patricia as she strengthens the ministry here at FHC.



FAMILY NEWS

Lesley Ann Vaughn graduated with honors from the Alliance Academy High School in Quito on May 26th, 2002. She’s spending June and July in Mammoth Lakes, CA, and then will be attending the University of California at Santa Barbara.

John and Cindy Snyder will be spending this fall (mid-August through mid-January) in the U.S., for an extended time with family as well as some sharing at churches about FHC. Please pray for a good time of rest and refreshment for them and little Michelle, 5, who will soon be adopted by the Snyders. Michelle is a “FHC graduate”, and will be attending kindergarten for the first time in Yerington, Nevada.

Sarah and Jonathan Snyder, and Phillip and Lesley Vaughn are now in college! Hard to believe...and that means college expenses. Should any of our supporters be moved to help with these expenses, please contact us. We would be very grateful.

HELP WANTED

FHC would like to invite a couple or single person(s) to spend a minimum of two years (or more!) with us in Quito. We have many needs, and we are certain there are people “out there” who would like to join us here for a life-changing experience!

House Parents: We have five little girls (all 7 years old) who would really benefit by a couple as their house parents. (Before you say this is too much for one couple, we want you to know that we have workers who will help, including doing the housecleaning and cooking, etc.)

The ideal couple would have intermediate to fluent Spanish language skills, no children (or one child, preferably younger than 7), independent, patient, nurturing, in summary a couple that is willing to be a mom and dad to these five beautiful girls, all with special needs. Single mom is OK, but couple is preferred.

Couple or single person(s) for a variety of responsibilities. Some of them include general maintenance and repairs, accounting skills, construction, carpentry, mechanical (auto or other), hospitality, any related health field, general secretarial, photography, artistic talent...or...“make us an offer”!

Any persons interested should be financially self-supporting. Please contact us for more information.



FOR HIS CHILDREN

9455 ELK RIDGE SOUTH
DIVIDE, CO 80814

For His Children is a Christian home for children
with special needs in Quito, Ecuador.

THANK YOU

Thank you to the Red Bluff Vineyard Church from Red Bluff, CA, the Wellesley Congregational Church and the Charles Street AME Church from Wellesley, MA, the Sierra Bible Church from Sonora, CA, Ryan Smith from Redding, CA, Amber Price from Essex, MA, Annie Fast from Dallas, OR, and Judy Ludden from Fulton, MO. These churches and individuals have poured out their time, resources, and love and have blessed FHC immensely. These groups and individuals built playground equipment, installed water lines, cut and split firewood, built a wheelchair ramp for our Faith House, painted, cleaned, fertilized, repaired plumbing, replaced toilets, played with babies and gave us a spiritual "shot in the arm." Their support and love carries us through the demands and responsibilities of FHC.

If you or your church is interested in volunteering at FHC, please send an email to Clark at the address listed below.

Casilla 17-08-8545

Quito, Ecuador

Phone/Fax 011-593-2-247-0832

Web site: [HTTP://WWW.FORHISCHILDREN-ECUADOR.ORG](http://www.forhischildren-ecuador.org)

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Cindy Snyder's email: CINDY@FORHISCHILDREN-ECUADOR.ORG

PLEASE PRAY FOR ...

- our many babies and older children who have not met their forever families yet. Our children with special needs are still waiting for the possibility of a family.
- resources to continue the daily operations at FHC and to enhance our therapy program for our children with special needs.
- the Snyders as they begin their furlough in the U.S.
- our children attending college and working.
- the discipline to nurture our spiritual and marital relationships during our hectic daily schedules.



Tax-deductible donations may be sent to:

For His Children

9455 Elk Ridge South

Divide, CO 80814 USA

Phone: (719) 686-0132

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