

Multi-tasking... It's interesting how new words are invented for old concepts...the word didn't exist 30 or 40 years ago, but we're sure our mothers would agree they multi-tasked all day long back in the 50's! And wouldn't all parents today agree that they are experts at *multi-tasking*? The other afternoon at FHC, I noticed myself juggling the following tasks, all at about the same time: 1) pasteurizing three quarts of fresh cow's milk brought to the children by an Indian woman from Otavalo; 2) sitting at the computer typing this newsletter one-handed as there was a 14-day old baby in my left arm, drinking a bottle; 3) the phone was wedged on my shoulder; and 4) I was listening to a question from an employee who had appeared at the door with a question about medication. Yes, just as it is in YOUR household, multi-taking is the norm here at FHC!



Sharing about the little lives that have been entrusted to us at FHC is always most important and is first in our newsletters. The number of children at FHC was at 46 for a few weeks...then we were very pleased when two children, Soraya and Dennis Joaquin, were re-united with their birth families (... Soraya's mother is now working at FHC as she was so impressed with the care and treatment that she and her daughter received by our staff). In October, two babies left FHC to be cared for by local Christian foster families, and so now as we write this newsletter, counting our new arrivals, the total is once again 46.

Marina (at left) was born weighing 3 lbs. at the government Maternity Hospital on August 6th. As is common in many of the children's stories, we do not know why her 20 year old mother left her baby at the hospital. On September 9th, our Social Worker, Cecilia Salinas, brought the baby home from the hospital, where she was lovingly given the name "Marina", after Cecilia's grand-mother. Marina is beautiful; her health is good, and she now weighs 7 lbs.

Erik (at right) arrived on September 10th, after spending a few days in the government's Maternity Hospital. Erik's adolescent mother experienced a very emotionally and psychologically difficult pregnancy



and made the decision for adoption early in her pregnancy. The case was a referral from the Juvenile Court in Latacunga and FHC's assistance was requested

in providing psychological counseling for this very young mother. Now two months after Erik's birth, FHC continues to facilitate counseling for the young lady, who has moved back to Latacunga. Erik is being cared for by one of our new foster families, an American family working with HCJB, an evangelical (U.S.) mission in Quito. Erik is doing well and is flourishing with the love and attention of his foster family.



Edison (at left) was brought to FHC on October 1st, by the director of a children's home in Quito. The home was closing its doors for reorganization, and because of Edison's special needs, FHC was contacted to welcome him. His story begins on July 1, 2004, when he was found on the doorstep of a home in north Quito. The police came, all the neighbors came out to see what was going on, but no one had seen anyone leave a baby on the neighbor's doorstep. Edison is a lovely baby, now five months old. He has been diagnosed with Down Syndrome and a

heart condition that will require surgery in the next few months. He receives therapy from our physical and occupational therapists twice a week, as well as regular medical checkups. He's made a tender place for himself in our hearts!

Esther (at right with Melinda) was welcomed at FHC on September 17th. The social worker at the Maternity Hospital explained to us that Esther's mother left the hospital three days after her baby's birth on August 17th. There were details available in her hospital record: her name was Jaimie, she was a university student, she lived in Tabacundo, etc. A few weeks later, our social worker, Cecilia Salinas, traveled to the town of Tabacundo, about an hour's drive north of Quito. Much to her surprise, she met the "real" Jaimie, a young woman who had only one child, several years old. She said she had not given birth recently, but did explain the mystery...she said her purse with all her personal identification was stolen in mid-August...a very interesting case of *identity theft!* The real Jaimie told Cecilia about a phone call she received from an unidentified woman, telling her that if she wanted to recover her documents, it would cost her \$15.00, and she should wait in a particular location in Quito on a particular day and time. There followed a brief encounter between a woman who said she found Jaimie's documents and wanted to return them to her, but she needed money... Was that woman Esther's mother? Her real mother obviously used Jaimie's ID when she was admitted to the hospital... A mysterious beginning to little Esther's life. Please remember Esther in your prayers.



Sarita (at left) will turn two years old in December. She has the sweetest smile, gentle manners, and makes you want to wrap her in your arms and never let her go. When Sarita was a year old, her birth family made the decision that they could not continue to care for her. Sarita was received at a local children's home. She has made slow but steady progress in her development. In late September, the director of the children's home asked us if Sarita could be transferred to FHC as her program was temporarily closing. Sarita has adapted well to life at FHC. She is learning to walk, and can eat by herself. Please keep Sarita in your prayers as preliminary tests show she has moderate developmental delay.

What we know of **Jofre's** story (at right) begins with a letter that reads: "Social Services of the Obstetric Hospital requests that For His Children admit a male newborn child who was brought by the police to our hospital on October 31st". The baby was taken to the Red Cross, and then to the children's hospital.

Because of a shortage of beds, he was taken to the Maternity Hospital. After seven days, he was discharged on November 10th to FHC. He is healthy, has an impressive head of thick black hair and bright, black eyes. Later, we learned that Jofre was found near a well-known statue in the outlying area of Quito, known as "The Choclo", (or "The Corn") a monument to the importance of corn in the culture of the people of the Andes, designed and decorated by a famous Ecuadorian artist, Oswaldo Guayasamin. When Jofre was taken to the Red Cross, he was about 15 hours old. He's enjoying the special attention given to being the youngest at FHC...by being cared for by Melinda and Clark upstairs in their home!



FHC has a calendar for 2005 which was made possible by a donation from Blooming Rose Farm, a rose farm in Ecuador. If you would like FHC to send you one of these beautiful and colorful calendars at no cost to you, please email or mail us a request to one of the addresses listed below at the end of this newsletter.



September 8th was Melinda's 51st birthday, and she was surprised by a serenade from our staff at 8 am, with Amanda Draxler, our two-year volunteer at FHC, on guitar (photo at left). Ten minutes of lovely music and singing were followed by a birthday cake, complete with a big candle in the shape of a "Question Mark"! If you want to feel loved and appreciated, there's nothing that compares to an early morning serenade! Latins sure know what they're doing!

In August, Melinda and daughter Lesley, 20, were blessed to travel to Europe for a few weeks. London, the Eiffel Tower, Versailles, Venice, Florence...it was all fantastic. Despite traveling on a budget, the trip was very special, especially the honor of traveling with one's daughter!

Major highlights of the trip for Melinda were visits to the towns of Trento and Bergamo in northern Italy. In Trento, Melinda and Lesley were welcomed by the staff of Amici Trentini, a children's development and adoption agency. Later that day, about 13 "graduates" of FHC and their parents spent the afternoon visiting and catching up on news. Tears flowed, but were quickly dried by smiles, laughter and hugs. In Bergamo, the staff of Il Conventino Onlus greeted Melinda and Lesley, and we spent the morning with four more FHC "graduates" and their parents (photo below right; in the front row are the guests of honor, Cristian Emanuel, Marta, Darwin, Melinda and Myriam; parents and siblings are also pictured, as is the agency's director, Padre Eugenio, back row at left). These visits were deeply moving...to once again hug and kiss these now growing up children who were cared for at FHC, was grander and more moving than visiting the Roman coliseum, or Michaelangelo's *David*. The children looked fantastic... healthy, handsome, intelligent, and what was most impressive was the contentment and sense of being deeply loved that I perceived in each one of them. Thank you, once again, to all these beautiful families and the two agencies for their warm welcome.



School started in early October for three of our oldest (10 years old) girls: Alexandra, Tatiana and Rosita (next page at left). They absolutely love school. All three were dressed in their first-day-of-school finest, and we walked them down to the bus stop.

Alexandra is doing very well in school; her teacher reports great improvement over last year. Tatiana and Rosita (along with all the girls in their class) have been nominated for the "Miss Beautiful Quito" contest at their school. December 6th is the anniversary of the founding of Quito in the early 1500's, and all of Quito will be a non-stop party for five days including bullfights, outdoor concerts, and dancing. There actually is a city pageant for "The Queen of Quito", in which many young women in Quito compete. We're voting, however, for our very own Rosa Elena and Tatiana Margarita!



A hard-working team from **Church on the Mountain**, in Crowley Lake, California, (photo below right) blessed FHC in early November with their enthusiasm, hard work, and love for the children. Leaders Dean and Leah Rosnau (also members of the FHC Board of Directors), led a multi-generational group of 15, who helped build a large multi-purpose/play room over our garage for the babies and children. (The terrace above the garage was rarely used, so we decided to turn it into usable space!) In addition, the group visited Christian inmates at the women's jail, and spent an afternoon on the surgical ward of the government's children's hospital, cheering up patients and parents. They also sanded, painted, planted gardens, hung lamps, fixed leaking faucets... and lots more for FHC. Our thanks to all!

Plans to begin FHC's Home in **Latacunga** are moving along as scheduled. We are \$30,000 towards our goal of \$50,000 to fund the program for the first year. We would appreciate your prayers for this program and for wisdom as we plan this new outreach, which will most likely open in early 2005. Thank you to all who have stepped forward and contributed to this new program above and beyond your normal gifts to FHC. Please contact us if you would like more information. To make a contribution toward FHC's new home in Latacunga, please send your check to our office in Divide, Colorado, indicating on your check that it is for the Latacunga program. Thank you.



Our **Child Sponsorship Program** is alive and well, and needs more sponsors! Participation in this program goes a long way toward meeting the needs of a child at FHC, perhaps a child who may not be able to be adopted because of the severity of his or her needs. Child Sponsorship is a great way to develop a relationship with a particular child at FHC, to learn more about their story, and to follow their progress. In addition to our gratitude, we will send you an update every four months on how your child is developing and maturing, with lots of up-to-the-minute color photos. May we suggest considering sponsoring a child at FHC as an alternative to the usual holiday gift-giving? We would be happy to send an acknowledgement to the recipient. It's trite but true, child sponsorship is "a gift that will give all year long"! Send us an email for more information. Thank you!

Even though we are writing this newsletter in mid-November, it may be well into December by the time it is received. We would like to take this opportunity to wish our readers and supporters a very happy holiday season, and God's blessings of peace and health for all, and most importantly, that we all may be deeply aware of and grateful for God's greatest gift to us, His Son.

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