



**The story of two precious children** at For His Children was possible because of your prayers and support...from the airline ticket and taxi fare, to the formula and diapers. Here's how it happened... A judge in a northern coastal province called in early May, asking if FHC would receive two children who had been abandoned in the hospital. Our social worker's schedule was already double-booked, so Melinda started making plans. Although newspaper reports confirmed hemorrhagic fever and malaria on the coast, it didn't diminish my enthusiasm to make the trip. On May 12<sup>th</sup> at 4 pm, I boarded a 30-minute flight (eliminating the need for a six-hour bus ride) from one culture to another, from the nation's capital at 9,000 ft. in the Andes, to one of Ecuador's developing cities on the tropical coast.

The Judge's staff was waiting for me, watching from the balcony above the noisy, crowded street. After introductions (during which the judge urged FHC to "please open a children's program in our province"), the social worker and I took a taxi to the hospital. By then it was 6 pm, and the heat and humidity were still high; a couple drops of perspiration trickled down my back. The hospital's social worker led us to a narrow room with five or six metal cribs, where mothers, aunts, sisters and grandmothers of the tiny patients filled the room, giving the feel of a coffee-klatch. Alejandra, six months old, but the size of a three-month old baby, was pointed out to me. I leaned over her crib and looked into her big, dark brown eyes and introduced myself. One of the mothers scooped her up and handed her to me, and after a few minutes the mothers announced they would get Alejandra dressed (photo above left) so I could follow the social workers to Neonatology. In a small, narrow room crowded with cribs, a nurse was feeding a tiny, 4 lb. baby boy with Down Syndrome. After putting on smocks and washing our hands, she brought the baby to us. I asked his name and in an instant, the social workers and nurse determined that he would be "Josue". The nurse handed me a cotton blanket, set Josue in the middle of it, and said, "He's all yours!" (photo above right).



We returned for Alejandra and I thanked the mothers who had taken care of her during her three weeks in the hospital. The aunts and grandmothers followed us out into the hall and wished us well. With help from the social workers, I carried the two small babies out to catch a cab to a hotel. Between the discothèque down the street and Alejandra's frequent fussing due to her severe malnutrition and skin rash on her neck, shoulders and back, we didn't sleep very well. At 3 pm the next day, we were packed and ready for the taxi ride back to the airport. We made a quick stop at the hospital to pick up the children's records. I couldn't leave the babies in the taxi while I went into the hospital, nor could I take the babies and leave my luggage, so the driver shrugged and unloaded everything and everyone and followed me down the crowded halls to the social worker's office. Mission accomplished, the driver asked for his fare ahead of time so he could buy gas to insure we made it to the airport (waiting for the flight, in photo at left).

Once we were in the air, the flight attendants were very surprised when I pulled tiny Josué out of the Snuggli and dressed the babies in a few more layers. (There would be an abrupt temperature drop of 20 degrees in Quito!) A porter helped me gather luggage and get a taxi home to FHC in Quito. It was a fascinating, poignant...and tiring trip. Both babies spent the next five days upstairs in the Vaughn's "Neonatal Nursery" (our home), with Alejandra sleeping in a dresser drawer and Josue in a basket! *These two beautiful babies are now being loved at FHC-Latacunga... because FHC's supporters made it all possible. Thank you!*



**Lourdes** (photo at left), arrived at FHC on April 15...and her known story is that she was found on a hillside in north Quito on April 1<sup>st</sup>. She had just been born. Fortunately a passerby found her and contacted the police. After two weeks in the children's hospital in Quito, FHC was contacted to take this very precious little girl home. She spent a few days with Melinda and Clark, and then accompanied us to Latacunga, where she is showered with love and attention.

**Cristian** (photo at right with "Aunt" Alicia) was born in the government maternity hospital on May 9<sup>th</sup>. His mother left the hospital on May 10<sup>th</sup>. She is single, in her early 20's, a university student, and had moved to Quito in January of this year. She informed the doctors that her pregnancy had been emotionally very difficult for her. Soon our social worker will begin investigating the few facts that are

known in Cristian's case to see if we can locate his mother or family members. (The law requires that all efforts be made to locate family and relatives of a child presumed to be abandoned.) Meanwhile, Cristian is receiving excellent care from our ladies in Latacunga.



**Carlitos** (photo at left), is 8 months old, and was referred to FHC by a women's shelter in Quito. Because of a crisis situation in her family, Carlitos' mother had to move to the shelter in early May, and has been unable to care for Carlitos in addition to several other children. We will coordinate plans with the social worker at the shelter to insure that she stays in touch with her son, although she has told us that because of her baby's special needs, she feels unsure about his future. Carlitos has severe neurological disabilities, and is probably mentally delayed to a great degree. With no family, no job, and homeless, his young mother sought help from the shelter. Please keep Carlitos and his family in your prayers. He is gaining weight and has responded extremely well to the love and attention of our caregivers in Quito.

**Francisco** (photo at right) was sent to FHC-Latacunga in May by a judge in a province north of Quito. A doctor opened the door of the local hospital and found a baby in a box. Sufficient clues were gathered that led to the detainment of Francisco's mother for three days. Since that time, she has repented of abandoning her son, but the judge will not release Francisco at this time. Our social worker, Cecilia, traveled in early July to receive another baby abandoned in the same hospital, and while she was in the city, she searched out Francisco's mother and they talked. Cecilia said the mother wept with joy to find out where her son is and that he is well. She is a single mother of three other children, earning \$140 per month as a seamstress and laundress. The "law" favors her in her desire to recover her child...but we must wait until the judge gives permission for FHC to release Francisco to his mother. This is a case that needs much prayer...thank you.





**Cristian Ugsha**, a part of FHC since August 2002, finally met his adoptive mother in mid-May (photo at left). Cristian was transferred to FHC at one year of age after being cared for in another children's program in Quito. He charmed us all with his quick smile and curious nature. By the time he left FHC in adoption, he was almost four years old. He and his new mom, Kristine, hit it off instantly. After spending several days together at FHC to get to know each other a bit, Cristian spent a couple of weeks with Kristine in her hotel until the adoption proceedings were concluded. Now at home in Pennsylvania, they are settling into their new life together. Please keep them in your prayers.

**FHC in Latacunga** (located two hours south of Quito), is doing very well! As we write this newsletter, we are caring for 11 babies, most of them under six months of age. On May 6<sup>th</sup>, we held an Open House, welcoming about 100 members of the community, as well as our staff and special friends from Quito. Dean and Leah Rosnau (and family), FHC Board members from California, spent the week with us, which made the occasion even more special. It was a lovely evening, with a welcome and words of dedication by Clark, Melinda and our pediatrician, Alfredo Naranjo. A dinner was prepared by a local chef, and later guests toured the home. As they left, everyone shared their best wishes for the home's success. Thanks to you, our supporters, for making this all possible as we share God's faithfulness and the vision of FHC with the people of Latacunga.

In January the **Rotary Club of La Jolla Golden Triangle**, California, united efforts with the **Quito Occidente Rotary Club** and the **Wilcox Foundation** in Carlsbad, California to present FHC with the donation of a 2004 Chevrolet Luv dual-cab pickup truck. It's been great for running errands in Quito, as well as weekly trips to Latacunga, with plenty of room to haul furniture, boxes, lawnmowers, even a swing set! Our heartfelt thanks for this much appreciated gift.



Melinda Vaughn's youngest sister, **Audrey Maxwell**, visited FHC for the first time in May 2005. The morning of her first day in Ecuador saw her sitting on top of a train with Rosita, (10), Tatiana, (10), Jonathan and Jessica (4 yrs. old) on Rosita's and Tatiana's school outing to Cotopaxi National Park (photo at left, with Jonathan). One of Ecuador's unique tourist attractions, passengers climb up on the roof of four railroad cars and experience an exhilarating 2-hour ride through pasture and farmland, up the slopes of Cotopaxi volcano. It was cold, wet, and fun, and included horseback rides and walks, and a pot-luck *cuy* lunch (guinea pig, an Ecuadorian specialty). Once she was safely back in Quito, Audrey helped with the babies and pampered our caregivers with facials, manicures and massages. Despite being on vacation from work at a spa in Santa Fe, NM, Audrey was very willing to bless our staff with her special gifts. Thank you from all of us, Audrey!

On June 25th, the **FHC Board of Directors** met in Dallas, TX, for a day of planning, sharing and prayer. We sincerely thank Tom and Heidi Lonsdale for their love and encouragement over the years, as they concluded their service on the board. Tom and Heidi have been an important part of FHC since it began in 1990. We pray for the Lord's abundant blessings for them in their future endeavors. In the photo at right, from left to right are: Tom and Heidi, Clark and Melinda, Dean and Leah Rosnau, Carol Wambeke, and Mark Yeadon.





We're very proud parents... **Phillip Vaughn**, (24) graduated from pilot training in the Euro-NATO Joint Jet Pilot training program with the USAF on June 24<sup>th</sup>, at Sheppard AFB in Wichita Falls, TX. Our family joined him for a day of touring the base and the flight training facilities, getting a feel for the very intensive training they have received over the past year in preparation for flying advanced aircraft. Phillip was assigned to an Air National Guard base in Klamath Falls, Oregon, and will be learning to fly the F-15c. We are so proud of Phillip, and ask for your prayers for him and his fiancée, Daniela Terán, as they make plans for their future together... a wedding on October 1<sup>st</sup> in Quito, Ecuador!

*(Bear with us as we make you look at a few more photos of his graduation weekend! Above: Melinda, Lesley, Daniela, Phillip and Clark. Right: Phillip calmly informs his sister that she has just crashed in the T-38 flight simulator! Daniela snoozes in the background. Below: Phillip checks out an F-15c fighter at Sheppard AFB).*



**FHC keeps growing...and we need help!** In our last newsletter, we mentioned that no matter your age, from 21 to 81, we welcome your participation in the ministry. Are you in your 40's? 50's? 60's? Are you finishing up your "primary" career successfully, and are now wondering how to turn that success into *significance*? You have several choices...go back to work, play golf, or begin a full or part-time ministry career, something you may have always wanted to do but couldn't because of other obligations. If you find yourself with time to do some probing...take a look at these two interesting websites: [www.halftime.org](http://www.halftime.org) and [www.finishers.org](http://www.finishers.org). Turn your disbelief that you can do it, into belief that you CAN, and then turn that into

**ACTION!** Many of you may be stuck at the "belief" stage, but can't or don't know how to put it into action. Contact us if you are interested in what life-changing experiences FHC can offer as you share your time, skills and energy with our beautiful children.

**In early April**, Clark and Melinda made a trip to Long Beach, California, to attend the Christian Management Association annual conference. As it was the first time we have attended a conference in the States on behalf of FHC, we were a little nervous about making the trip, but it was a great success. During four days we attended classes and lectures, picked up some good books on ministry management, and learned many new ways to enhance the way we do things at FHC, as well as improving our leadership skills. Again, FHC's supporters, **YOU**, made this learning experience possible.



**As promised**, here's our photo of some of the mission team from Wellesley Congregational Church, Wellesley, MA, that blessed FHC in April. The second of two teams sent to FHC by WCC this year, we are encouraged by their love, support and prayers.

**Gracias!** to **Amanda Draxler**, who has been volunteering at FHC since February 2003. Amanda has blessed FHC in many ways over the past two and a half years: helping to take care of the mission teams that travel to FHC, organizing and heading up our pool therapy and recreation program, among many other responsibilities. She will stay on in Quito, and has accepted a job with the Verbo Christian School, teaching English and helping with their music program. We thank her for all she has done for FHC, and pray God will bless her in the future.

**Chip Harlow** and daughter Carrie, along with friends Kevyn and Rita, are spending their summer vacation at FHC (in photo at right are Chip, Carrie and Rita). Chip is familiar to many of you as he used to be a FHC board member, and has been a frequent traveler to Ecuador, always making sure that FHC is on his itinerary. He has worn many hats on this visit to FHC: driver, maintenance, helping with visiting mission teams and visitors, computer repair, camera-VHS-intercom repair, and much, much more. Carrie and friends have been a great help with the toddlers, completing Baby Books, and accompanying FHC staff on various errands. While Chip was here, we held an informal ceremony one afternoon in late June, to rename the Snyder Home where the toddlers are cared for, to the "**Harlow Home**". This honor was long overdue, and we are pleased with the new name in recognition of the Harlow family's dedication and support of FHC. Thank you, Chip and family!



**We have very sad news to share:** on July 7th, five-year old **Miller** (at left) passed away at FHC. The doctors say Miller suffered cardio/respiratory arrest, possibly due to a blood clot. (Miller had epilepsy, which was controlled with medication.) We strongly suspect a blood clot as a few weeks ago Miller was operated on to correct his dislocated hips, and clotting is common after surgery.

We are always deeply impressed with the love, care and attention that our caregivers devote to the children. So many "mothers" surrounded Miller, during his life here at FHC and at the time of his death. He was dearly and deeply loved. Our caregivers are doing OK. It's always very difficult for them for a few days, but then they take a deep breath and move forward, realizing that there are other children who need them. When a child dies, we soberly reflect on the fact that it is God who decides when our last breath will take place. As Christians, we know Miller is with the Lord, whole, healed and enjoying being in the presence of God.

## **OK, it's time to talk money... first, the great news:**

- 1) Authorities and hospitals continue to seek FHC's high quality of care for the area's abandoned children, and not just from Quito...as you have read in this newsletter, judges from other provinces appreciate FHC's standard of care. We are taking care of over 55 children between the two FHC locations.
- 2) We are hosting more mission teams from U.S. churches than ever before (10 in 2005). The majority are "repeats", which means the enthusiasm is spreading, and more people want to experience FHC first-hand. These teams contribute to FHC in many ways, and we are grateful for their visits.
- 3) Our programs just keep getting better...in addition to our pool recreation program and water therapy program, our children continue to benefit from weekly horse therapy and other rehabilitative therapy programs. New this year, as a result of the incentive of several caregivers, we have a pre-school going on Monday through Friday for our older toddlers. In addition, we continue to provide top-notch medical care, and the best caregivers in Ecuador give love and individualized attention to our babies, toddlers and older children. We continue to look for ways to inexpensively improve the infrastructure of FHC to meet our needs and maximize our space.
- 4) We work hard to keep costs down whenever possible. For example, this year we have drastically lowered our hospital and medical expenses by using government health services. We waited two years for a donation for a more appropriate vehicle...we make the most of donated medicines and food. We're even hoping to harvest some vegetables from our gardens in Quito and Latacunga.
- 5) FHC continues to be tremendously efficient. Approximately 95 cents of every dollar are used for caring for the children. Not many non-profit ministries can share such good news!
- 6) Thanks to the generous giving of our supporters, YOU, the program in Latacunga is completely funded through December 2005!

**Now the bad news: all of the great news was costly!** We were way over budget June 2004-2005. (Financial reports available on request.) The bottom line is that our donations must increase in order to meet our tightened budget for 2005-06. Our monthly budget for the three homes and programs in Quito is \$22,500; (payroll is our largest expense, over \$12,000 per month). In Latacunga, our budget is \$5,000 per month.

We gratefully come to you with our thanks and appreciation for every prayer and every donation that has been made to this ministry over the past 15 years. We humbly ask you to continue supporting FHC's ministry, perhaps increasing your gifts, if possible. We would appreciate your sharing with friends and co-workers about our child sponsorship program, and encourage a prayer group or Sunday school class to consider a monthly donation. Our donations must increase if we are to continue providing a bright, warm, clean and loving home for abandoned children. We cut expenses whenever possible; we don't want to cut the quality of our care nor our programs, but this will be our reality for 2006 if we continue to experience shortfalls in our support.

Thank you for taking the time to read the above. Money matters aren't easy to deal with, and we appreciate the sacrificial giving of so many of our supporters. In prayer, please search for how the Lord may be leading you to help financially in new ways. Again, thank you very, very much.

**Thank you for your prayers and encouragement for For His Children.**

Sincerely,

Clark and Melinda Vaughn  
Directors

### **For His Children**

Casilla 17-08-8545, Quito Ecuador  
Telephone/Fax: 593 2 247 0832  
Clark's email: [clark@forhischildren-ecuador.org](mailto:clark@forhischildren-ecuador.org)  
Melinda's email: [melinda@forhischildren-ecuador.org](mailto:melinda@forhischildren-ecuador.org)  
Website: [www.forhischildren-ecuador.org](http://www.forhischildren-ecuador.org)

### **Tax-deductible donations may be sent to:**

For His Children  
9455 Elk Ridge South, Divide, CO 80814 USA  
Brent and Joyce Bourdeau, (FHC's Ministry Assistants)  
Telephone: 719 686 0132

***The Vineyard Christian Fellowship*** of Red Bluff, California, blesses FHC by printing and mailing this newsletter. They ask you to please advise us if you have moved so we can keep our mailing list current. If you can receive this newsletter via email, it will reduce mailing costs. **Thank you!**