

In memory of Bryan Levi Meyer
September 11, 1993 - July 22, 2005

We welcomed Wade and Lisa Meyer and close friends Ted and Brenda Haar on July 18th on a joint family mission trip to Ecuador from Zion and Good Shepherd Lutheran Churches in Alexandria, Minnesota, where Wade is pastor (at Good Shepherd). Wade and Lisa were parents of Bryan, (at right with little Marina, at FHC). Bryan was adopted from FHC in 1993. One of the reasons for returning to Ecuador this year was so he could visit his birth country. Bryan became ill while he was in Quito, and passed away suddenly from complications on Friday, July 22nd. Bryan was a joyful blessing to the Meyer family, friends and relatives, as well as their church family in Placerville, California and Alexandria, Minnesota.

The death of a child is one of life's unanswered questions, especially when the child was as special as Bryan, chosen



by God to be born in Ecuador, and then chosen to fill that big, empty place in the hearts of the Meyer family. Nothing in Bryan's path could slow him down. He was talented and sensitive, artistic and intelligent...he was a child that even now, over ten years later, is still remembered by many people in Ecuador. He leaves behind very special, loving memories for all of us at FHC. As the Meyers' friends, as Directors of FHC and on behalf of our Board of Directors and all our staff, we want to honor Bryan's memory and express again our condolences to his parents, Wade and Lisa, and Bryan's siblings, Caleb, Isaac, Kylee and Korin.

In photo at left are Ted Haar, far left, Brenda Haar, far right, Wade Meyer, third from right, and Lisa Meyer, bottom at right, along with their children.

FHC-Latacunga (FHC-L) is doing very well, so well, in fact, that we are studying the reasons *why* it is operating so smoothly so we can duplicate the technique in Quito! The caregivers are emotionally mature, faithful, creative and flexible women, who handle their jobs with a great sense of responsibility. Together with our guard/concierge, Kleber, the home practically runs itself, with only short weekly visits from Quito staff. We are caring for 12 babies, ranging from newborn to 16 months of age. In early September, we were honored by visits from the Judge of the Children's and Adolescent's Courts and the Judge of the Justice Court of the Province of Cotopaxi. Both were impressed with the quality of care and attention to detail demonstrated by our caregivers and staff.

We believe the Lord's plan is that FHC-L be permanently established in Cotopaxi Province. Since its opening in February of this year, we've received a total of 14 referrals of children needing care. This indicates to us the ongoing need for FHC's services. In order to keep FHC-L operating in 2006, we must raise funding for our monthly budget of \$4,000 to

\$5,000 per month. As God guides you and your family, please prayerfully consider how you might make a commitment to fund FHC-L in 2006. We are thankful for your encouragement and support.

We have four new arrivals to FHC–Latacunga: Angel David, born August 28, 2004, was admitted by the Children’s Courts of Cotopaxi Province. Angel’s parents have been unable to elicit family support to enable them to care for their precious son, who has Down Syndrome. FHC will exhaust all efforts to strengthen the family so Angel David might be reunited with them. Unfortunately, all signs indicate that Angel’s case will most likely proceed to adoption. Check out his photo below at left.



Joselito was brought to FHC by the police in mid-August, after neighbors reported the baby and young siblings were alone in the house for three days. Joselito is almost three months old, born on June 17, 2005. What little information we have been able to gather on the case indicates that the family needs intensive counseling and prayer. We will be working diligently to reunite Joselito (at right) with his birth family.



Dulce María (at left, below) came to FHC-L by way of the Children’s Courts in a northern province. Her mother (Dulce María was her sixth child) gave birth, got dressed, said she was going to visit a family member in another part of the hospital, but instead left the hospital, leaving little one-day old Dulce María behind. Dulce is healthy, weighing 7 lbs. at birth, and is developing well. Our next step is to travel back up to the province where Dulce María was born to investigate further the facts known in the case. At this point in time, the court considers the case one of “premeditated abandonment.”



Adam Joaquín (at right) arrived at FHC-Quito (FHC-Q) and then traveled to FHC-L in early July. The social workers from a local government hospital called us to explain that a young mother had decided to make an adoption plan for her newborn son, as personal problems and lack of financial and family support made it impossible for her to care for him. Three summer volunteers at FHC accompanied our psychologist to the hospital to receive the baby. They experienced first-hand that the acceptance of a child at FHC is a very serious and sobering event.



Of course, we are willing to open our arms and receive a child that needs care and protection, but imagine for just a moment witnessing the grief of a mother relinquishing her baby... or imagine telling a newborn what has just happened, as he faces the most serious trauma of his life. Most of us can only imagine the emotions. We look around us, then, at the beautiful children at FHC and it becomes very real that they are not here for “day care” or “summer camp”. Far from it.

This was the situation with the arrival of little Adam Joaquín. Our visitors were deeply moved as they met Adam’s mother, and listened to her story as she talked with our psychologist. When she was ready to leave, she walked out the hospital door, refusing any offer of further assistance to spend a while longer with our psychologist, or at least to allow us to help her with transportation home. She simply walked away down the street to the bus stop. Little Adam is gaining weight and doing well. He is the littlest one (born July 3, 2005) in our home in Latacunga, and the *Tías* (our caregivers) shower him with love and attention. Our Social Worker is keeping track of his young mother, and has offered FHC’s support in any way necessary (food, psychological counseling, employment possibilities, clothing, etc.) hoping that she will feel strong enough to care for her son. She remains firm in her decision that Adam be adopted. Adam’s story emphasizes the

desperate need for healing in every child at FHC. Please join us in prayer that God will minister in His unseen, mysterious ways to all the children to heal those deep hurts that most of us can only imagine.

Finally, adoptions are moving forward. In early September, five precious children at FHC were united with their forever families:



Galo Rafael, (born in Latacunga in early 2004), met his parents, Juan José and Gloria Narcisa, who are residents of Quito. They have been waiting two years for a son or daughter, and were almost speechless when they met Galo for the first time. Juan José is an officer in the Ecuadorian Army, and Narcisa is a homemaker. After about three days, Galo was showing us clear signs that he was ready to leave FHC to be with this loving, attentive couple that only had eyes for him (at left). On August 30th, we said goodbye. Our psychologist reports that parents and son are doing very well!

Estefanía (also born in Latacunga in early 2004), delighted her new mom, Mónica Patricia (at right). Patricia is a resident of Quito, and is the manager of a cellular communications company. Patricia is thrilled with her new daughter! Estefanía needed a little extra time to feel comfortable with her new mom, who came daily to FHC to help bathe, feed and dress Estefanía. The behavior we watch for is when a child begins to prefer their new mother and/or father to our caregivers. This was our cue to give our blessing and allow Estefanía to go home with her mother for visits, and eventually to leave FHC on September 1st. Patricia has been in contact with us and reports that she and Estefanía are doing well.



Erika Paola, also a “*latacungueñan*”, has left with her parents, Julio Ignacio and Lidia Guadalupe (below at left) from Santo Domingo de los Colorados, where her new dad is a high school teacher, and her mom runs a small grocery store. St. Domingo is a small city about two hours south of Quito. Her parents traveled to Quito to meet their new daughter, spending several days in the city while they became acquainted with each other. Our psychologist was amazed at how quickly Erika bonded with her new parents. When they were introduced, they opened their arms and Erika ran straight to them and into their hearts! There is a language of the heart that we are privileged to witness when a family is born at FHC. This was one of those miraculous, moving moments and there wasn't a dry eye in the room. Erika left FHC on August 30th.



Alexander (almost 4) and **David Morales** (almost 3) left FHC with their new parents, Jacqueline and Chris Lorento, of Clearwater, Florida, on Sept. 11th.



It has been a long wait for everybody! Both Alex and David were newborns when they arrived at FHC. Alex was our “wonder child”, who blessed us with his quick wit, incessant questions and advanced verbal skills. Blind since birth, his other senses were very acute. When we slowed down a bit to enter his world, we always came away enriched, amazed and blessed! His handsome younger brother, David, was just beginning to show us his blossoming personality. David will give his brother a run for his money as far as intelligence and charm! David loves cars, including their keys, their owners and riding in them. He showed a maturity beyond his short three years. We miss both boys greatly. Alex will be attending a school for children with visual impairments, just minutes from his home. It sounds like just what he needs to challenge him. David will eventually be home-schooled with his older siblings, Nick, and Ligia (also from Ecuador). Jaci and Chris are keeping in touch with photos and letters, and we will keep you updated with the exciting new life ahead for the famous Morales brothers! So far, their parents report life is “*real good*”!

Departures of a different kind also took place this summer at FHC. **Dayana Flores** (6 ½) and **Myriam Castro**, (5), two of our very special girls with severe needs, passed away. In mid-July, Dayana was hospitalized for pneumonia, and died later that day of complications. In mid-August, Myriam became ill with respiratory problems, and later that night, Myriam passed away. The precious souls of Dayana and Myriam are with the Lord, and for that we are so grateful, yet they have left a void in the lives of all of us here at FHC. Myriam arrived as a tiny newborn, abandoned at a construction site in Quito. Dayana was sent to FHC from the children’s hospital. Thank you for the prayers and financial help that you, our supporters, have provided during the lives of these very special children.



New arrivals contrasted with the losses that were a part of life at FHC this summer. The day Bryan Meyer passed away, we welcomed a tiny newborn girl (at left) who had been abandoned in a city park. The police brought a young woman to the offices of FHC who told how she was handed the newborn while her mother used the public restrooms, and then never returned. This healthy baby girl is doing very well, and everyone comments on her beauty. In Bryan’s memory, she is named **Brayana Grace**.

Then came **Joana, Eduardo,** and **Marianela!** All three were brought to FHC by the local police. Joana (at right) arrived July 28, and is now 16 months old. Eduardo arrived in early September, and is about three months old. Marianela arrived September 3rd, and is about 13 months old. These three are so

precious, yet our hearts break when we think of how frightening it is to be separated from family and a familiar environment. The police have to make very difficult decisions when they intervene to protect a child’s welfare. We will be working with the police to hopefully reunite these children with their



families; Eduardo has already returned to his parents. Please keep these four new arrivals in your prayers.



At left, is Pastor Steve Igarta (middle row, left) along with the 14 members of a team sent to Ecuador from the **Vineyard Christian Fellowship of Red Bluff, California!** This group blessed FHC for eight days in August, re-establishing friendships and relationships with the children and our staff, and working in the never-ending tasks of building maintenance and repair! This is their 5th visit to Ecuador, as they have made a ten-year commitment to visiting and supporting FHC.

How blessed we are to have their friendship and encouragement. Thank you to Pastor Steve and everyone who made the trip to FHC.

We're pleased to introduce **Kara Warner** (photo at right, enjoying a hug from David), a speech pathologist from Knoxville, TN. She has been turning our toddlers into "talking parrots", as we say in Spanish here! Kara arrived in mid-June, and will be with FHC until early December. She is helping with the water therapy program, and taking lots of photos for our baby books and archives! From all of us at FHC, we thank Kara and Dan Ackley, our one-year volunteer from Red Bluff, CA, for their hard work and sacrificial service. We so appreciate them!

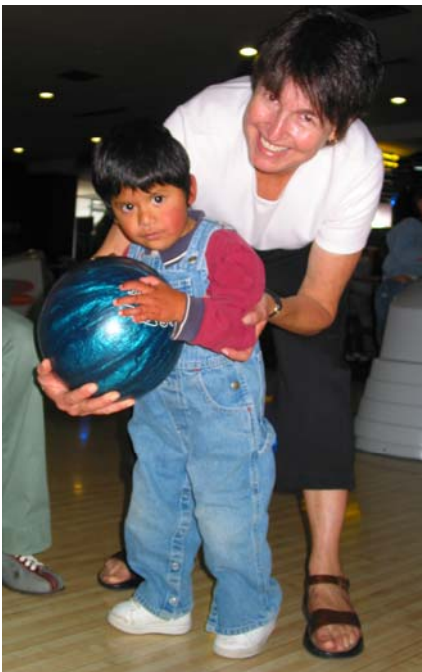


Lesley Vaughn, Clark and Melinda's daughter, spent her four-week summer vacation from UCSB at home with us and FHC in Quito. (She is now spending part of her senior year in Alcalá, Spain.) Lesley was kept very busy with FHC's 45-50 children, (at left with Sarita, Joana and Natalie), visiting FHC-L, and showing the sights of Ecuador to our visiting teams and volunteers. She also designed and put together Alexander's and David's baby books (no small task since the boys had a combined stay at FHC of *seven years!*) We loved having her return "home" to Quito. Thanks, Les!



We'll get right to the point as our remaining space is limited: **we have children who really, really need families.** Here they are. Look deep into their eyes, and let God pull at your heartstrings...then ACT ON IT! Contact us for more info.

Felipe (at right) is three years old, has normal intelligence, and is quite a handsome guy. Despite spina bifida (spinal cord lesion which causes paralysis of his lower body and legs), look how he pulls himself to a standing position! Felipe is so loving and affectionate. He needs a family to help him be everything he is meant to be in his life. He doesn't "deserve" to spend the rest of his life at FHC. None of these children do.



José Luis is showing us he will go far in life! He will soon be four years old. José Luis has some important delays (speech and motor skills), due to cerebral palsy. Boy, can he flash a winning smile! He has great determination, as seen this past year as part of our pre-school program at FHC. In the photo at left, José Luis bowls with Melinda's help for the first time on a summer outing with his "siblings" at FHC. José Luis is trying so hard to be like the other kids; he has learned to crawl and to stand. If you pick him up and give him a hug, it's hard to say who will melt first...you or José Luis!



Sarita (3) and **Daniel** (11 yrs.), (photo below at right) are siblings, and we want to keep this brother and sister together in adoption. Daniel has some minor medical issues, which do not at all affect his very good grades in school and the fact that he is well-liked and respected among his friends and teachers. He already knows some English and he is excited to learn new words every day. Daniel can no longer be cared for by his grandmother, who has physical and psychological problems. FHC is hoping to locate a loving foster family for Daniel while we work toward (and pray for) locating an adoptive family. Sarita has blossomed at FHC, learning to walk and feed herself, and while she still has delays in speech and other areas, her progress is steady.

All four of these children have medical-developmental issues. *If we can handle them here in Ecuador, their challenges can surely be handled even more easily in your part of the world!* Go ahead, write Melinda for more information. Thank you for responding to God's leading!



Summer

vacation at FHC (although only three attend school outside of FHC), means fieldtrips, outings and fun stuff that normally gets pushed to one side during the rest of the year. One such outing was bowling at a local shopping mall with the children from the Faith House (or Casa Fe) where we care for ten children ages three years up to our oldest girls who are turning 11. Little Jessica, who just turned four in June, was thrilled with this new game of throwing an incredibly heavy ball down a really, really slippery lane (she knows how slippery it is because she tried to walk down it!), hoping to knock over some funny-shaped white things. After about an hour of this fun stuff, we had a snack in the food court, and then checked out the elevators and escalators (which everybody loved) before heading home to FHC. Your donations made this fun trip possible. Thank you!

Our FHC website has been updated! Check it out at www.forhischildren-ecuador.org. We can now accept donations on line! Our thanks to all who worked on this project, headed up by our very competent website designer, Barclay Bourdeau, (Brent and Joyce's son), who patiently and sacrificially gave of his time and talents to bring a fresh look and updated info to our site. Check it out!

We are thankful for the prayers and donations that have made this ministry possible. We appreciate the support you have given to FHC. By the way, have we mentioned that we (quietly) celebrated 15 years in Ecuador in August 2005? Thank you for your encouragement for FHC's home in Latacunga, the Child Sponsorship program, and all the little people, and programs that make up FHC. We would appreciate your continued help for the day-to-day privilege of caring for 45 to 50 children in Quito, and for the 12 children in Latacunga. Again, thank you.

Sincerely,

Clark and Melinda Vaughn, Directors

For His Children

Casilla 17-08-8545, Quito Ecuador
Telephone/Fax: 593 2 247 0832, 280 8424
Clark's email: clark@forhischildren-ecuador.org
Melinda's email: melinda@forhischildren-ecuador.org
Website: 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 Ministry Assistants
Telephone: 719 686 0132

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