

It's early November as we write this issue of FHC's newsletter. It seems odd to wish you Happy Holidays, yet it's true; we're in the last two months of 2005. No time to lament how quickly the year has passed, let's move on! Enjoy reading about some of the happenings at FHC during the past two months:

New arrivals: Mateo (at right) arrived on October 11, 2005, by way of a phone call from a social worker at the children's hospital in Quito. A newborn baby had been abandoned on the steps of the El Sagrario Cathedral in Quito and was taken to the children's hospital. The social worker told us that the baby would be brought to FHC in an ambulance, accompanied by the media. A local TV channel and newspaper heard about the abandonment and were following the case. Within an hour, Mateo arrived in an ambulance in the middle of a flurry of activity.

About four days later, a woman called FHC to say that she was Mateo's mother. She wanted her baby back, but was afraid she would be arrested. The young woman explained that she is single, living at home with her mother and sister. She said that in a moment of desperation and disorientation (as she had just been released from the hospital), she stopped to rest on the steps of the church and fell asleep.



When she woke, her baby was gone. She says her family is

willing to support her caring for her baby. FHC will follow the court's leading; a DNA test is probably the next step, as well as court appearances. Please keep Mateo and his mother in your prayers. At this point, the case could still take some twists and turns.

Maria Julieth (2½), arrived in late September from a home for young women in a coastal province. Julieth had been living at the home with her 17-year old mother (at left). Her mother's life has had many tragic moments, resulting in her

being alone, with no family support. About a year ago, Julieth's mother decided to search for her own mother, and she and her baby made their way to the capital city of the province. She soon came to the attention of juvenile authorities, who admitted her to the women's home. With no parental role models and many personal challenges, it has been very difficult for her to be a loving and caring mom. Finally, the judge decided that María Julieth should be cared for in a children's home. Contrasting the two photos of María Julieth on this page, the dramatic changes since she arrived at FHC are obvious. She is adapting well to her new life at FHC.



A reasonable amount of time will be needed to see if Julieth's mother can learn to handle her many challenges in order to become a supportive mother. We will be working together with the home's staff to help determine the best options for Laura and her daughter. Please keep these two special people in your prayers.

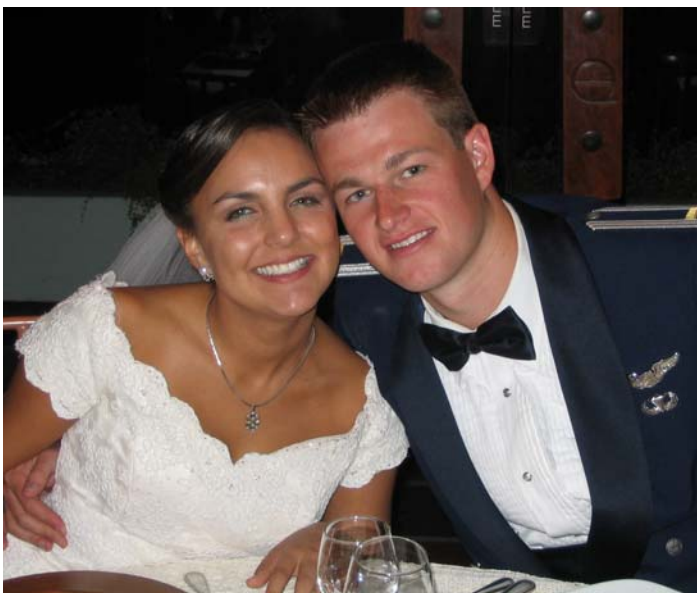


New families were "born" at FHC in October and November: **Jonathan** (4 ½), one of our handsome guys at the Faith House, met his new mom, Beatriz Esmorris, (photo at left) from Galicia, Spain, on October 15th. Three years ago, Jonathan's case was referred to FHC by a daycare center in Otavalo. FHC worked for two years to reunite Jonathan and his mother, but there was no cooperation from the family. When the big day arrived, Jonathan was dressed in a new outfit, helped put a "Welcome" sign on the door, and had a bouquet of flowers waiting for his new mom. Within a couple of days, Jonathan felt relaxed and comfortable and soon accompanied Beatriz to her hotel, where they will be together while the adoption paperwork is completed. Mom and son are patiently awaiting the day when they can fly home to Spain. Beatriz works for the city government. Our best wishes accompany Jonathan and Beatriz as they begin their new life together. Please remember them in prayer.

By the time this newsletter is in the mail, **Alexandra** (11), will be at home in Nevada with her new parents, John and Cindy Snyder (photo at right). Alexandra arrived at FHC in February 1997, when she was three years old and recovering from severe malnutrition and pneumonia. She was diagnosed with cerebral palsy after being sent to Quito for medical care from a rural town in the Amazon lowlands. When her mother learned that Alexandra would need special medical care, they made the difficult decision that her daughter should remain at FHC. Alexandra has blessed us over the last eight and a half years with her smile, quick humor, her determination and sweet spirit.



It's fantastic news that she now can develop to her potential under the loving and experienced guidance of her new parents. The Snyders have adopted three children from FHC; Darwin being the most recent addition to the family. He is anxiously awaiting his new big sister's arrival. Congratulations to all!



The family in the photo (at left) wasn't made by adoption, but you might say FHC played a pretty big part in bringing these two special people together! Clark and Melinda are very pleased to announce the marriage of their son, **Phillip**, to his Quito high school and college sweetheart, **Daniela Terán**. Phillip and Daniela dated for over eight years. Just as their families began to get antsy, they announced their wedding plans. The beautiful event took place in Quito on October 1st, in a small 16th century chapel in the San Francisco Church, located in Quito's historical center. A reception followed where dancing and partying continued until 3 am! Daniela and Phillip are living in Wichita Falls, TX, until Phillip receives orders for his transfer to the USAF base where he will receive specialized pilot training. The new couple would love to hear from you at maxwellf15@yahoo.com and daniela5_01@yahoo.com.



On October 12, a six-member team from Ontario, Canada blessed FHC for 10 days. Clara Vanderlaan was the team's leader and the group stayed busy helping to care for our 40+ children as well as other ministry opportunities in Quito. (Clara and her husband, Tony, are former residents of Quito and adoptive parents of Alicia, who was cared for at FHC several years ago.) This lively group even traveled two hours south of Quito to help at FHC-Latacunga (photo at left). Thank you to all!

Here's a reminder this holiday season that a gift-donation to FHC can bless many more people than just those on your gift list! FHC has prepared beautiful gift acknowledgement cards that we are ready

to send to the friends and family in whose name the gift is made. We can also designate the gift for a particular need, such as two cans of infant formula (\$8.00), or a case of 12 cans of formula (\$48.00). Your gift will be acknowledged with our sincere thanks. Please write if FHC can help with *your* gift list!

FHC's Child Sponsorship Program is also an easy gift to arrange, one that "gives" 365 days a year. A sponsor receives a packet which includes information about the sponsorship program and a detailed story of the child to be sponsored. Four times a year, FHC will send you an update about the child's progress and development, as well as the child's future plans. The updates are filled with great color photos taken every month of the activities that "your" child is participating in at FHC. Your monthly or annual sponsorship contribution enables FHC to do everything we can to give "your" child a warm, supportive and loving home. Write us and we can send you a sponsorship packet and an acknowledgement of your gift almost immediately (via e-mail). Thank you!



A big item on FHC's agenda for 2006: will FHC-Latacunga receive the funding necessary to continue? Only YOU, our supporters, can answer that question! FHC-L was quickly funded by early 2005 before it even opened its doors. Now FHC-L is approaching its one-year birthday in February 2006. God has shown us that the program is needed in Cotopaxi Province. The number of children cared for at FHC-L since it opened its doors is now 18. One of those children was Damaris (photo above left). Her story began in Latacunga in October when the police rang the bell at FHC's gate one night with a one-year old girl in their arms. Damaris' abandonment was the result of a domestic dispute. She was alone in her home until neighbors finally called the police. Damaris very quickly relaxed in the caring arms of our Tías, obviously in need of love and support. Damaris' father had disappeared days earlier with her older brother. In the heated days of this family's crisis, Damaris was abandoned. FHC's professional staff worked with the

Social Services Department of the Courts in Latacunga, to locate Damaris' mother. Within ten days, mother and daughter were reunited. Daniel, 7 months, (photo previous page at right), has been cared for at FHC since he was three days old. Thanks to your support, Daniel was welcomed at FHC-L. These two children are just two of the 18 who have benefited by FHC's care. Please help us keep FHC-L's doors open by considering a commitment to support this home in 2006. Thank you in advance for your encouragement by way of your financial contribution toward its funding. In the future, we hope we can share with you many more heart-warming stories of children welcomed, loved and cared for, as FHC-L enters its second year. Thank you again.



Salomé Schardt, 24, (at left with María Inés, 1 ½ yrs.) from Neuchatel, Switzerland, is volunteering with FHC for two months. When she returns to Switzerland in December, she will help start a pre-school for children with normal and special needs. We are thankful for Salomé, and for all the volunteers, local and international, who have blessed FHC.

Our warmest wishes in this holiday season to all who have prayed for this ministry over the past year and contributed to its success. We are very thankful for what *you* have done to make this ministry possible.

Our prayers join yours for the victims of the many disasters that have taken place around the world in 2005. We pray for peace, for healing, and relief for so many who have suffered immense tragedy.

May God bless you at this sacred time of year, and may 2006 be prosperous and peaceful for our world.

Clark and Melinda Vaughn, Directors

P.S. We had room for one more photo, and this one (at right) seemed to be appropriate! Dulce María (her name actually means "Sweet Mary"), is four months old, and her crib partner is Christian, six months old. Both children were abandoned. FHC-L was able to open its arms to these two precious babies, who are growing and doing well. Both children will enter the government's national adoption program sometime next year. Sweet dreams to all!



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