

News from

# For His Children

A Christian ministry to children in Ecuador

August - September - October 2006

Lots to write but little space mean that in this month's newsletter the news will be brief! But first, our warmest greetings to all and our appreciation for your support!

**New member:** At FHC's Board of Directors' meeting in McLean, VA, in May 2006, we were honored and pleased to welcome new member Carter Newbold. Carter and his family live in Tennessee. Carter is married to Elizabeth, and is dad to Nathan, 8, Lucy, 6, and Stella, 3 (photo at right). Carter is a partner in Rutabaga Capital Management. He has visited FHC, is a committed prayer partner, and he and his family support a child in FHC's Child Sponsorship Program. Carter has expressed a deep caring for what God is doing through FHC in Quito and Latacunga. He has made a commitment to serve on the Board "with all his heart." Welcome, Carter!



FHC's Board meeting in May was hosted by member Carol Wambeke, husband Augusto de la Torre, and their family. Also present were Dean and Leah Rosnau, (June Lake, CA) and Clark and Melinda. Serving on the Board of a non-profit ministry is a big responsibility. Although we meet once a year and communicate mostly by e-mail, when we do come together we are challenged to hear God's voice and follow His leading for this ministry. Please clip out this paragraph and tack it to your refrigerator door as a reminder to pray for FHC's Board. Thank you!



**Matching Donation Fund:** The generosity of three U.S. families is doubling donations made to our "general operating fund" (\$10,000 has been received to date). This is an amazing opportunity to make a donation stretch twice as far, up to \$30,000. *This special "offer" will end December 31<sup>st</sup>.* Please indicate on your check that it is to be designated for the Matching Donation Fund. Thank you so much to these generous families and to our generous donors.

**New families created through adoption in August:**  
**Samuel**, 2, met his parents, Alejandro, a civil engineer by profession, and Martha, an industrial sociologist (photo at left). The new family lives in Quito and is beaming with joy to be parenting their new son. **Patrick**, 2 1/2, met his forever family, Ronald, a clinical psychologist, and Cristina, who works in hotel administration. This new family is also at home

in Quito. Twins **Alejandro** and **Mauricio** are enjoying their new family: parents Juan Carlos, a commercial engineer, and Sonia Ximena, a linguist (photo at right). We hope you enjoy these photos of beautiful new families that were created through adoption!

**Sarita**, 3, was finally united with her adoptive family from Utah after it was determined that she and her older brother could not be adopted together. A decision was made by Ecuadorian adoption authorities to separate the siblings, allowing the family to adopt only Sarita. Daniel was placed in temporary foster care and was later reunited with an aunt in Quito who will assume his care.

**Sofia**, 11 months, who was received at FHC-Latacunga at three weeks of age in December 2005, was reunited with her





maternal grandmother, Hortensia, in early October. Sofia's mother is facing criminal charges for child endangerment. Her grandmother petitioned the Court for custody, and shed tears of relief when it was granted. Sofia was quiet when she first met her grandmother, but over a period of a week, she began to look forward to her grandmother's visits. Toward the end of the week, she cried when separated from Hortensia. FHC sent them off with a hefty "care" package, and our Tías gathered around them to pray before Sofia left. A recent visit from Hortensia and Sofia showed they are doing well. Hortensia, (in photo at left) with Sofía and Sofía's older brother, will now be caring for three grandchildren.

**Our new psychologist** at FHC is **Alexandra Arroyo**, (photo at right). Alexandra replaces Patricia Albuja, who blessed FHC with her services for four years. (Paty has decided to take a break from working and to return to the university to update her knowledge in child psychology.) Alexandra's husband is an attorney, and they have a six month old daughter. Alex worked with Holt International Children's Services in Quito for five years, and is a perfect fit at FHC. Welcome, Alexandra!



**New arrivals: Vicky Samantha** (photo below left) arrived at FHC-Latacunga when town authorities found her and her older siblings neglected, hungry, and wandering the streets. This was about the fourth time that the children were forced out on the streets when their parents started drinking. When Vicky arrived at FHC in late August, she was estimated to be a year and a half old. So far, no parent or relative has come forward to claim her. Vicky's siblings are being cared for at a group home for older children a few miles away. Vicky is smart, has a healthy appetite, occasionally bites (!), and loves to help Melinda organize cans of formula in the storage room in Latacunga!



**Camila** (in photo at right, with Melinda) was born July 26, weighing 5 lbs, and had a few minor health problems. The social worker at the government's Maternity Hospital recognized the mother's name and discovered that this was the third time she has abandoned a child at the hospital (in 1996, 2005, and 2006), giving false addresses each time, and leaving within hours of giving birth. Camila is doing well and now weighs over 9 lbs.



**Mateo** is the son of a young single mom who made the decision for her son to be adopted after she needed medical treatment in a group home for young mothers. Mateo was born July 21, 2006, and was welcomed at FHC in late August. Mateo has bi-lateral cleft lip and palate. As soon as he is four months



old and his weight is adequate, he will have surgery by the Smile Foundation here in Quito. (In photo at left, the social worker who brought Mateo to FHC poses for his first photo.)

**Emilia**, at right, was found outside a home in south Quito. The woman who owned the house almost fainted when her son told her that there was a baby wrapped in a blanket outside their front gate. They brought the baby inside, called the police, cleaned and dressed her, and waited. First she was taken to the Maternity Hospital, and then sent to



FHC on September 25. She is healthy, and now weighs a little over 6 lbs.

**Jessica**, 5, and **Fabian**, 2, were re-welcomed at FHC in late September after authorities received reports that their mother had been seriously neglecting the children for the last three months. Jessica and Fabian spent almost a year at FHC in 2004-05 due to family issues and a custody dispute. After investigating the current situation, FHC is petitioning the Court for termination of parental rights and that the children's cases be approved for adoption. Jessica and Fabian responded very positively when they were brought to FHC (we were nervous about how they would react). They rushed to the Tías and hugged them like long-lost family. Jessica is missing her glasses and thyroid medication, and Fabian has a black eye and a hairline fracture in the bone in his forehead, but doctors have pronounced them in "good condition considering" what they have been through.



**Mission Teams visit:** This past summer, we welcomed mission teams from churches in the U.S.: Good Shepherd Lutheran Church, (in photo at left) from Alexandria, MN; the Missionary Church from Nappanee, IN; the Village Church, of Wellesley, MA; the African Methodist Episcopal Church in Boston; the Vineyard Christian Fellowship of Red Bluff, CA;

and in late summer, a team from the Windham Presbyterian Church of Windham, NH. These teams were made up of people who sacrificially gave of their time, resources and energy. We hope they realize the huge encouragement they are to FHC. "Thank you" to these teams, and may God bless you.

**School time:** Six of our children are attending school this year. Thanks to the generosity of sponsors, **Julieth**, 4, and **Jessica**, 5, (in photo at right taken on the first day of school) are attending a private school very close to FHC. The school teaches Christian values, offers two hours of English per day (via activities and games), the student-teacher ratio is small (8 to 1), and children receive a complete curriculum, from art and music, to academics and sports, with an emphasis on punctuality!





**Lisseth, José Luis, Rosita and Tatiana** are attending classes at the Cerebral Palsy Institute in Quito. (In the photo at left, Tía Nancy helps steady José Luis and Rosi, while Tía Lulú readies Lisseth for their first day of school.) Although only José Luis has cerebral palsy, the school offers classes for students who are mentally delayed. A driver picks up the group every morning and a Tía accompanies them. At school they receive language, physical and occupational therapies according to their needs, as well as social and academic instruction. The excitement of going outside FHC, meeting new friends in a new environment and participating in new and exciting activities was just what they needed. *We are looking for more sponsors to help with these four children's schooling. Cost per child per month is \$90.00, which includes door to door transportation. Please send a note to Melinda at [info@forhischildren-ecuador.org](mailto:info@forhischildren-ecuador.org) if you or your church or social organization would like to participate.*

Parent-Teacher meetings for these six children are attended by Tía Marcia Mera, who used to be a high school teacher. Marcia coordinated the registration of all six children, as well as purchasing all of their school supplies. She is also our "parent representative" should there be any problems. Thank you to all our supporters who have responded to make these experiences possible for our children.

**A Christian orphanage?** A U.S. volunteer asked the question earlier this year: "If FHC is a Christian orphanage, where is the Christian instruction?" It was provided over the last few years by a willing neighbor, but recently we had to look to a local church. We found one in Carcelén, just five minutes away. It offers our seven older toddlers (Abram, Roberto, Jairo, Lisseth, Jessica, Julieth and José Luis) "Kids' Bible Club" on Saturday afternoons, and Sunday School on Sunday mornings. Melinda drives them in the van and picks them up two hours later. They are practically bubbling as they climb in the van and it's non-stop chatter about what they are learning and the new activities they are doing.

**Latacunga construction update:** The wall is built, and our "contractor" continues to do a very nice, cost-conscious job showing initiative, creativity, and forethought regarding a lot of construction issues. The Guard House and all four walls around the property are finished. The next project will be the excavation of a cistern. We're gearing up for a major fund-raising drive to begin in mid-November to fund the construction of the home which we hope to start in January 2007. We thank everyone for their generosity in helping us to buy and build on FHC-Latacunga's future home site.

**Help!** We continue to pray for long-term (6 months or more) "interns" to help at FHC. AND, we're also passing along the need for a three to six-month, self-supported teacher of conversational English in the Indigenous province of Chimborazo, in a small church and community setting. This is a great once-in-a-lifetime opportunity to live with an Indigenous family in a unique environment. No advanced experience required, just a willingness to help others learn! Contact FHC for more info.

Our on-going needs are for prayer and financial support. We will continue to improve the quality of care we give the children entrusted to FHC with your support. Thank you for your encouragement and for being a part of this ministry.

Clark and Melinda Vaughn  
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Verónica Rodríguez  
Administrator

**For His Children**

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