

News from

# For His Children

A Christian ministry to children in Ecuador

October – November – December 2007

**Thank you to every one of our supporters** who responded to FHC's financial crisis after reading about our difficulties in the last FHC newsletter. FHC is "afloat" once more, having come precariously close to "bottoming out"! Our accounts are healthy – for now – and we are humbled, blessed and encouraged by the responses of so many who dug deep in their pockets and budgets to support FHC's ministry. We are grateful. Thank you!

Meanwhile, the severe financial cutbacks that we put into place a few months ago are now slowly beginning to ease up. Our employees' salaries, cut by 12% in September, were discounted only 6% in October. In November, we have assured our faithful workers that salaries will be back to normal. To those of you who were concerned about our therapy pool – we're planning to refill it in January. Hopefully our therapists and preschool teacher will be back on staff soon, to complete the quality care and attention that FHC has always given our children. Thank you for your support and encouragement.

We are assured yet again, that FHC is *His* ministry, and how God is faithful (we constantly forget, don't we?). Friends and supporters from Ecuador, the U.S., Canada and Europe have come together in love for For His Children. Again, **thank you.**



**Sunday morning, 9:45 am:** the sound of singing brought us to the window to watch 19 toddlers from the Harlow House march up the driveway on their way to go for a walk in the neighborhood. Following the "mobile" toddlers were three wagons pulled by Tías with children needing assistance. Helping to push were two little ones who recently graduated from the Vaughn Infant Home to the Harlow House. Those of you who have visited FHC know what a sight this is. The children are TOO cute to describe with words.

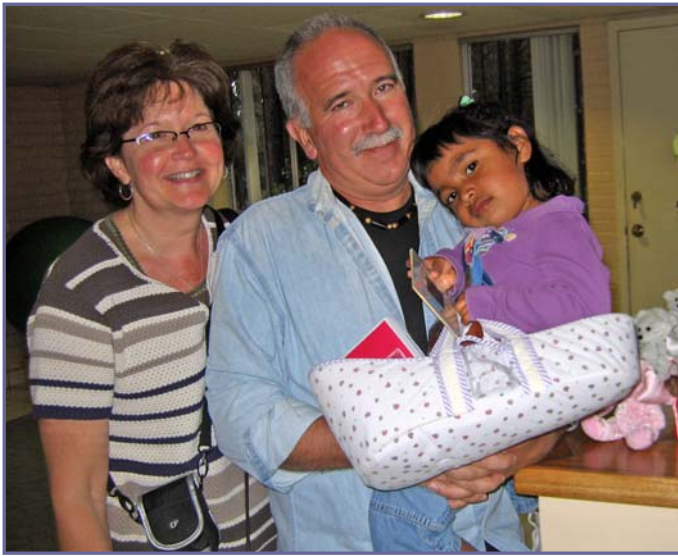
Our hearts are sobered when we realize that they started out life abandoned, and now they are waiting - to begin the rest of their lives. It's tragic, but if we believe that each one of these *preciosas* lives is in God's hands, that the circumstances in their lives are ordered by Him, then we are to be encouragers and accompany them in love and

compassion until the day they leave FHC with their adoptive families. Many of us started *our* lives in uncommon ways, but no matter how our lives began, as followers of Christ we are here in the world to encourage and care for others.

**A little one arrived** at FHC-Quito in early November. Julian was born October 28, 2007 at the government Maternity Hospital in Quito. He is healthy and well.

Julian's mother left the hospital the day after she gave birth. There is very little information about her in the medical file except that she is 23 years old and has a 7-year old son. FHC's social worker, Cecilia, also has information about where his mother may live. FHC is required to try and locate the child's birth family. With support and encouragement, sometimes a mother decides to reverse her decision to abandon her child. At right, Julian is dressed and waiting to leave the hospital in Cecilia's arms. Thank you for your prayers for this new child who has joined the FHC family.





**Adoption is the birth of a family**, an integral part of what FHC's ministry is all about. In mid-October we welcomed forever families for **María José Mora** and **Joana Valverde**.

Joana's new parents are **Roger** and **Kim Yoder** of Mt. Eaton, Ohio (at left). Joana has known her new Mom and Dad since January 2006, and the three of them felt their feelings for each other deepen each time the Yoders visited FHC with mission teams from their church. Joana, 3 ½, was welcomed at FHC in July 2005. Once her adoption was underway in Quito, the Yoders had their patience tried when their case was handled by a judge who is content to postpone and procrastinate, all the while making it clear that he views adoptions unfavorably. But adoption *is* recognized by Ecuadorian law, so sooner or later the judge had to budge. Roger and Kim will return to the U.S. in early December, and Joana will meet new brothers Adam, 21, and Aaron, 24. A new chapter in Joana's life is well underway!

**María José**, our little "dynamo in a dress", couldn't wait to meet her parents, Perald and Gladys Oge (at right). A week before the Oges were scheduled to arrive in Ecuador, one night at bedtime her Tía noticed a square object underneath her pajama top. When asked what it was, María José pulled out the photo album of her new family – which she wanted close to her heart! She embraced her new parents – literally and figuratively – from the moment she met them. In a very unique twist of events, earlier this year it was discovered that María José has a younger brother at another children's home in Quito. We were overjoyed when the Oges agreed to adopt María José and her brother, Sebastian. María José immediately assumed the role of big sister, and both children are enjoying time with their family. The Oges returned to the States (Laurelton, NY) November 23<sup>rd</sup>.



**Congratulations to the Yoder and Oge families!**



**Who would have thought a good laugh** could break a leg!? That's what happened when lovely and vivacious three-year old Marianela laughed so hard that she made a run for the bathroom. She slipped, and the rest is history. Marianela is in a half-body cast for seven weeks. She is good-natured about it, and thinks her new mode of mobilization in a wagon is pretty nifty (at left).

**Juan José**, 2, (at right) underwent heart surgery in mid-November for a congenital heart condition involving his aorta. Juan José was in and out of the hospital in three days. He's doing well and hard at play once again!



### What's new at FHC-Latacunga?

We will soon hear the rumbling of bull-dozers! The building of FHC-Latacunga's new home is ready to start! Over the past couple of months, a large water cistern was built, with a machine-storage room on top. The architectural drawings and structural plans have been completed. We are excited – and often replay in our minds how just three and a half years ago FHC-Latacunga was started (of course its many struggles in the beginning are part of the story). We think of our wonderful Tías in Latacunga who make the home operate so smoothly, and of course - the encouragement of many who have supported this program in Latacunga. Now we're ready to start excavation for the foundation. It's amazing! Our supporters are making this possible, and we thank you sincerely. The new home for 30+ children at FHC-Latacunga (above: the architectural 3-D rendering), is being built "out of pocket", which is why we want to remind our donors that *now is the time to support this construction*. Thank you!



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**Earlier this year**, FHC welcomed Raul Silva to our professional staff. In the busyness of life at FHC, we neglected to introduce him in our earlier newsletters. Raul is the first male psychologist at FHC. He brings fresh new ideas and lots of knowledge about child psychology to FHC. He hopes to be a positive male role model to the children. FHC is pleased to have Raul on our team, and we ask you to remember him in prayer in the coming year. (At right, Raul, Marianela, Tía Natalie and María José.)



In December, FHC will say goodbye to **Pete and Tesha Grangaard** (at left), interns at FHC for the past nine months. Pete and Tesha have been a superb asset. There's no other way to describe them. Tesha has generously agreed to continue as FHC's Child Sponsorship Program Coordinator through March 2008, so we will continue to be blessed by contact with them and their support. We wish Pete and Tesha the very best in their future.

**Glenkirk Church** of Glendora, CA, sent a motivated team to FHC in late September. They rolled up their sleeves – literally – and helped build the cistern on the new property at FHC-Latacunga. They also did a lot of the most important thing there is to do at FHC - spend time with the children. They faithfully helped our Tías every day in all three homes in Quito and in Latacunga.

Thank you, "Team Glenkirk", and leaders John and Ginny Wiedmann. We look forward to a return visit soon!





**Children with special needs who wait for families** have many questions. It's difficult enough to explain to a child with normal needs that the process is long, with lots of papers to put in order, but that parents are coming! Imagine what it's like to try to explain to a child who is physically and/or mentally challenged who waits for a family! José Luis, 6, (at left), and Lisseth, 10, (at right) are two of our children who wait. If their beautiful faces ignite a spark in you, we encourage you to investigate more about adoption and whether it's right for you and your family. A child is waiting!



**FHC's 2007 Holiday cards are now available!**

Hoping to make our cards an "annual" event, FHC approached eight-year old artist Nicole Ward for her help. Nicole is a graduate of FHC, where she was cared for until she was almost two. She is now the daughter of proud parents Elisabeth and Mitch Ward in Sweden. FHC asked Nicole to paint six holiday designs, (religious and secular), and they are lovely! The inside text consists of a simple, elegant "Happy Holidays" in English and Spanish. The card's reverse side has more about Nicole and information about FHC. If you already have your holiday cards for 2007, please consider purchasing FHC's cards for 2008!



A package of 12 colorful 5 x 7 in. cards (we've included a few samples of the designs here), 12 white envelopes and a couple of pretty bookmarks are available for a suggested donation of \$12.00. We thank you for your support, which helps to spread the word about the work of FHC. Thank you also, to Mitch, Elisabeth and Nicole for their work in getting the cards ready to print here in Ecuador.



So don't wait – e-mail immediately ([Melinda@forhischildren-ecuador.org](mailto:Melinda@forhischildren-ecuador.org)), and we will make arrangements to deliver the cards to you the first week of December. Your donation can be mailed to FHC at 9455 Elk Ridge So., Divide, CO 80814. If you would like to see all of the cards in more detail, please contact Melinda.

**As 2008 is quickly approaching**, we'd like to share with you an important thought this holiday season:

*"It's so easy to crowd Him out of our lives during the holidays. With all of the festivities, He is usually an afterthought. He isn't asking for the guest room in our homes, or a place at the table this holiday season, He only wants a place in our hearts. He welcomes us as His own...let's welcome Him into our thoughts and our lives this holiday season and in the New Year. \**

**Clark and Melinda Vaughn, Directors**

*\* Adapted from H. Norman Wright's Quiet Times for Couples*

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

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Brent and Joyce Bourdeau, FHC Ministry Assistants

**Thank you to the Vineyard Christian Fellowship of Red Bluff, CA for printing and mailing this newsletter for seven years!** Please advise FHC of address changes. If you are able to receive this newsletter via e-mail, it will reduce the cost of printing and mailing. Thank you!