



What's news at **For His Children**
A Christian ministry to children in Ecuador
 November – December 2008

Ever seen a “living logo”? Well, that’s what the photo is at left. Three of our little ones agreed to reenact FHC’s logo of three snugly wrapped babies. We think they did a pretty good job. (They’ll want residuals from this photo, no doubt!) Thank you to our logo-boy models, Jeremías, Joshua and Pablo!

We’re all in need of smile and a story these days and there’s no better place to go for that than FHC! So Edison, 4, is one of the smartest little guys at FHC. He goes to a school for children with Down Syndrome and loves it. Well, the other day he finished lunch before the others and wandered over to Jofre’s table. Jofre is also 4, and has severe cerebral palsy



so he needs help at mealtime. He’s pretty sharp and knows what’s goin’ down at all times. Well, María, Edison’s caregiver was impressed. “How sweet, Edison’s going to feed Jofre,” she thought. As she watched out of the corner of her eye, Edison shows the true motive for hangin’ around Jofre’s table. He picks up the spoon and gobbles a few bites of Jofre’s food. “Edison!” María exclaims. Caught red-handed, he quickly pushed the empty



spoon into Jofre’s mouth! In the photos, the boys agreed to demonstrate “teamwork” for the camera!

We’re feeling what *you’re* feeling... the international and U.S. financial crisis, that is. FHC’s donations have been dropping about 20 – 25% over the last few months, and we are expecting that percentage to increase. Some of our supporters have told us their level of financial giving will be reduced by 50% next year. We won’t dwell on the news that already fills your newspapers, television and radio. So what are we at FHC doing about it? Well, we’re tightening our belts even more, reducing payroll by 20%, eliminating all non-essential purchases, appealing to the community for donations of food and other necessary supplies, we’re “closed” to new admittances, and are requesting financial aid from the government, (a first for FHC). We’re going to make it... all of us...we may have only rice and beans on our plates, but thank the Lord for “only” rice and beans! (Did you know that eating beans and rice together makes a protein as complete as fish, chicken or beef?)



FHC-LATACUNGA UPDATE In November, a skilled group of guys from California answered our prayers. **Wes French** (at left) installed the finish electrical conduit and wiring in the first floor and ran the main electrical service from our mechanical/pump room about 90 meters to the home. With donated funds, FHC was able to purchase the wiring, overhead light fixtures and the exterior security lights. **Larry Tustison**, an “ace” plumber, installed and set all the sinks, toilets and fixtures, as well as installing two pumps and a pressure tank for the water supply. All the guys did some electrical wiring in Quito as well as repairing our pool heater. **Dane Sperry** (second from right, next to Clark) helped in many areas and supervised the installation of the T-bar ceiling grid.
Lorrie Tustison,

Larry’s wife, helped take care of the 23 children at FHC-Latacunga. It was a week of intense work, but also a lot of fun spending time together.

We’re encouraged by the progress on the home. We continue to gratefully receive donations toward the \$10,000 needed to complete the first floor. We hope to move into the new home in February. Dan Lind, FHC’s project manager, has done a great job. His next job will be with Samaritan's Purse - Mexico. He has worked on the FHC-Latacunga home construction for one year, and surely saved Clark’s and Melinda’s sanity and their marriage! Thank you, Dan!





The Applewood Community Church of Golden, Colorado, sent a team of 10 to FHC, led by Rick and Ellen Baldacci. The team painted five bedrooms and a bathroom at the new FHC-Latacunga home. This was the group's first mission team trip to FHC, and they loved it. We hope they return soon! Thank you to all.

We'll toot our own horn... the Ecuadorian Social Welfare Ministry recently requested permission to film our operations in Quito. They told us FHC is going to be "the standard of quality care" for children in out-of-home care in all of Ecuador. We're proud and grateful for the teamwork that has made FHC what it is today. And YOU are part of that team! Yea!

Clark and Melinda (FHC's founding Directors) welcome granddaughter, Maya Melinda (at right). She was born October 5th in Pensacola, Florida, to Phillip Vaughn, his wife, Daniela, and their 2 year old son, Matías. The family is doing well. Melinda was able to spend time with them during this special event, and as all you grandparents out there know, it was precious, priceless, and a lot of fun! Congratulations Daniela and Phillip!



We have a limited supply of FHC Christmas cards – so please order yours now. The suggested donation for 12 cards (2 of 6 different designs), envelopes and bookmarks is \$12.00 (which includes cost of mailing). Contact Melinda at info@forhischildren-ecuador.org to order your packages now before they run out!

Need a thoughtful and truly meaningful gift idea for the holidays and one that fits *your* budget? A one-year **FHC Child Sponsorship "gift certificate"** is a great way to say "we're thinking of you" as well as recognizing the needs of children in Ecuador. Contact us right away and we will prepare a packet containing an acknowledgement/gift certificate, the child's photo and their story to send to you to hold until the holidays, or it can be sent directly to the recipient. A child sponsorship "costs" whatever the giver designates, \$1.00 a month to \$35.00 per month (suggested monthly donation), or more. We'll also send you a copy of each of the three annual updates that we will send to the gift recipient which includes poignant photographs and precious stories of their child's development. E-mail Melinda at info@forhischildren-ecuador.org

Several children were received at FHC recently and within weeks were re-united with their birth families. We're joyful for that. Some new children recently admitted will be staying longer at FHC: At **FHC-Quito: Jeremías** was born August 1st and was welcomed to FHC on Sept. 12th. He was born at the government Maternity Hospital in Quito. Due to health issues and lack of family support, his mother was unable to care for him. FHC's summer intern Heidi Mogrovejo (of Cuenca, EC.) accompanied Melinda to the hospital to welcome Jeremías. Heidi had the honor of naming him after her brother. Jeremías weighed only a few pounds when he arrived, but now he's been gaining weight, is alert and very handsome!

Joshua arrived at FHC Oct, 20, at the request of the Children's Hospital in Quito. Neighbors heard a baby crying for several hours, but didn't investigate until three in the morning. The police were called and an ambulance took the newborn baby to the hospital where he remained under observation for a few weeks. Joshua is very handsome with a personality to match!



Josué was born July 26, and welcomed Oct. 15. The police brought Josué to FHC after he was found in a neighborhood about 20 minutes from FHC. A resident called the police when they were concerned for the child's welfare. It was determined that FHC is the best place for Josué at this time. FHC has asked the children's court to determine the best for Josue's future. See photo of Jeremías and Joshua on page 1, the "living logo".

Ricardo was born Oct. 28, and admitted to FHC on Oct. 30. Just two days old, Ricardo was found in a northern sector of the city, not far from FHC. A neighbor found the baby, bathed him, changed his clothes, and called the police. They took him to a health center in the neighborhood, where he was determined to be 48 hours old, and in good health. Then he was brought to FHC. Ricardo (at left with "tias" in the Vaughn Home) joins the 15 other children in the Vaughn Infant home, where we are FULL to capacity!

Oh, but we had to make room for one more... **Pablo** (also in "logo photo" pg. 1) was born Oct. 17 and received at FHC on Nov. 4. The social worker at the Children's Hospital brought him to FHC. What little we know of Pablo's story is that his mother entrusted him to a "friend", who took him to the hospital when the baby became sick, and she notified the police. Pablo is in general good health – FHC is doing all the lab work and tests requested by our pediatrician, and he is doing well and adjusting to life at FHC.



Nathalia Alexandra, 1 yr. 11 mos., (in red jacket) was welcomed at FHC on Oct. 7th at request of a local women's shelter. This precious little girl's family has had generations of very difficult events. Nathalia's mom was 13 when she gave birth to her daughter. Authorities placed the child in the hospital for emergency medical care, and later Nathalia and her mother were taken to the women's shelter. When it became difficult for Nathalia's mother to take care of daughter, the decision was made that Nathalia would be cared for at FHC. Nathalia has a whole new look on her face now that she is at FHC where she is loved, cared for, has a warm bed at night, eats nutritious meals, can play with children her age, and receives attentive care from our medical staff. She is doing well. Please keep her in your prayers.

Daniela Nicole (in blue jacket) was born Aug. 6, 2005, and welcomed to FHC in late October. Daniela and her brother, Bryan, 11, come from a very abusive home situation and the children were removed from their grandmother's home after she had to be hospitalized and the children were left alone. Daniela's mother is dealing with substance abuse. She and her husband have had difficulty being good parents to their children. It has since been determined that Daniela Nicole has Osteogenesis Imperfecta, or "brittle bone" disorder. Her lower legs, after she suffered fractures to both legs as a result of abuse, have healed incorrectly, causing them to be deformed. The family's history is a very difficult one, and it certainly seems that Daniela Nicole will remain at FHC while the judge determines the best for her future. Her brother has been transferred to another children's home. FHC is making plans for the siblings to visit each other regularly.

At **FHC-Latacunga**, four little girls arrived in late September. At first all four were thought to be sisters. Later we discovered they were two groups of sisters. Only two sisters remained at FHC - **Alisson**, 3 ½, and **Brandy**, 2. The other two were transferred to El Arca Children's Home in Riobamba because of their ages.) At right, after a long bath, a shampoo and clean clothes, the girls look *v-e-r-y* different than the way they looked the night they arrived!) The girls had been left alone in a house day after day, for several months. The owner finally called the police and the little girls were removed from the home and brought to FHC. Both sets of parents have appeared before the Judge, but they could not present complete identification for the girls. Sadly, neither of the parents have visited their daughters. The Judge declared, "I'll give the parents six months and then the girls will be assigned an adoptive family."



Luis Anthony, 15 mos. old, arrived in early October. A court social worker traveled with Luis on a seven-hour bus ride from the city of Esmeraldas to FHC–Latacunga. Luis' 17 year old mother was inattentive and was seriously neglecting him. Neighbors stepped in to help and eventually authorities were notified. His maternal grandmother is caring for her own six children, ages 2 to 17, in a small, one room house made of split bamboo. Luis is small for his age and is slowly recovering from moderate malnutrition. He's quiet, always observing what's going on around him. It makes us wonder what is going on in that little head of his?! Please pray that God would heal his hurts and comfort him in ways that only God can do.

The Judge in Esmeraldas also asked FHC to care for **Carlos Ernesto**, 3, who also made that long bus ride with Luis Anthony and the social worker. Carlos was removed from his home after his grandmother was sentenced to eight days in jail for physically and emotionally abusing her grandson. She later moved to Guayaquil, which meant that Carlos needed a stable home. Please keep Carlos in your prayers, too. In the photo above, Carlos and Luis Anthony, who didn't know each other before coming to FHC, became fast friends on the seven-hour bus ride to FHC-Latacunga. Here they enjoy a stop-over at FHC-Quito before continuing on to Latacunga.

Only one adoption took place at FHC these past few months: **Janeth Patricia**, 10 months old, met her forever family (at right) at FHC-Latacunga on Oct. 9. Her new dad, Luis, is employed at a pharmaceutical laboratory. Janeth's mom works in telecommunications. The family lives not far from Quito. They are very, very happy with their new daughter. Congratulations! (Our apologies for the oddly shaped photo – we had to crop it to get the best view of the new family!)



Oh goody! We're on the last page and there's plenty of room for more photos of fun things happening at FHC: at left, Tía Mary Solis perfects her CPR technique in an Emergency First Aid/CPR class given for all the staff at FHC by members of the Ecuadorian Civil Defense.

Below, on Melinda's birthday in September, the staff surprised her (they always do, e-v-e-r-y year!) with a serenade by Ecuadorian mariachis, a birthday cake and gifts. (In case you have never seen Melinda, she's second from the left.)



Below left, FHC-Latacunga

alumni Cristian and his adoptive mother, Claudia, returned for a visit in mid-November. Here they have just been presented with Cristian's Memory Album, a "life book" filled with photos and memories of Cristian's life while at FHC-L.



At left, Marianela, 4, is "queen for a day" at her birthday party at FHC-Quito in September.

We've run out of room, so we will close with our hope that your holidays be simply - "holy days" - set apart. We pray you will open your heart for God to work His purposes in your lives and in your families at this season. Let's celebrate Him! Happy Holidays to all. Our sincerest appreciation for your support and prayers.

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