



The news from **For His Children** A Christian ministry to children in Ecuador June – July – 2009

If you're like us, we receive newsletters from other organizations, churches and ministries. Often when we read them, we feel like we've "missed" something – people, projects and events are mentioned and we have no idea what they're talking about. So if this is your first time receiving a newsletter from For His Children (FHC), we'll introduce ourselves: we're a U.S. non-profit ministry in Ecuador founded by Clark and Melinda Vaughn, who are writing this newsletter. Together with our Ecuadorian staff, we care for children who have been abandoned, abused, neglected, etc. Our bi-monthly newsletter and website (www.forhischildren-ecuador.org) are how we stay in touch with our supporters and friends about FHC, the children we care for, and our prayer and financial support needs. By the way, on August 6th, we're celebrating the **19th anniversary** of the Vaughns move to Ecuador. So, welcome aboard!

How is FHC doing financially? First of all, we are very grateful to our supporters who have faithfully responded to FHC's financial and prayer needs year after year. We take this opportunity to encourage all our readers to financially support the ministry as is possible. Thank you! Sometimes FHC receives enough donations to cover expenses. Other months, donations fall very short of meeting the ministry's needs. At the time of this newsletter, the level of donations is alarmingly low. We are preparing to reduce the very things that make FHC such a special place for children: the low child/caregiver ratio, our physical and language therapy, our pre-school and other educational programs, etc. As of mid-July, we are not receiving any new children, because the only way to reduce payroll costs (a large part of our expenditures each month) is to reduce the number of children we care for. The FHC Board of Directors is seriously considering a lot-split to sell part of the FHC "Faith House" property in Quito to make available emergency funds.



Baby Alfredo was found in a cardboard box at 9:30 PM on May 1st, after a neighbor heard a baby crying near the town community center. Alfredo spent two weeks in the hospital. Above, he is ready to go home to FHC.



Gabriel, 4 mos., is readied for the 2-hour trip to FHC-Latacunga. Gabriel's mother disappeared, leaving behind three young children in a rented 1-room apartment in Quito. Since then, Gabriel's Dad contacted FHC and is willing to take care of his children.

An interesting fact crossed our desks the other day – FHC's newsletter is received by about 2,000 people. ***If every person on our mailing list would help with \$25 per month, FHC would be in amazingly strong financial shape.*** One very effective way to support FHC financially is through our **Child Sponsorship Program**. It's a wonderful way to make a connection with a specific child at FHC and see how your support is making a difference in their life. Contact us and we'll get you started. (info@forhischildren-ecuador.org) Thank you.

FHC's Chevrolet pickup truck (donated by Rotary International) knows the way to Latacunga after the numerous trips Clark has made in the last few months. Just two hours south of Quito and in the provincial capital of Cotopaxi province, FHC recently moved into our newly completed children's home in Latacunga. In addition to overseeing the on-going construction projects at the home, Clark also drives visiting church mission teams to Latacunga to spend time with the children. Recently he made three trips to bring four babies to their new home at FHC-L. (When FHC-Quito has no beds available, we welcome the "overflow" at

FHC-L, where we currently care for 19 children). Here are the new arrivals:

Clara (at right) 3 months old, arrived in May. Police brought Clara to FHC-L when neighbors reported family substance abuse problems. Clara is the third child from the same family to need care at FHC-L: Evelin, 4, was adopted last December by an Ecuadorian family, and two-year-old Omar is currently at FHC-L. Clara is healthy and has adjusted to life at FHC after her abrupt and somewhat traumatic arrival at our doorstep. Please keep this little one in your prayers.



Mónica (at left with a hospital social worker) was found by a passerby. Not knowing what to do, he gave the newborn baby to a neighbor who called the police. Monica was taken to the government's Maternity Hospital, later transferred to the children's hospital, and then discharged to FHC. Our social worker, Cristina, has gone door to door searching for clues as to Monica's identity, with no success. Mónica is now six weeks old and was welcomed to FHC-L in early June.

Newborn **Rafael** (at right with Caregiver Mayra) was three days old when he was welcomed to FHC in mid-June. He was found in the park in Salcedo, a small town south of FHC-L. We have no clues as to his mother's identity. His case is being investigated by the Latacunga Children's Court. He is healthy and doing well.



At FHC-Quito, we welcomed three little ones in the last few months: **Lucas** (below right on scale) was 12 days old when he was admitted to FHC in early May from the children's hospital. Lucas was found wrapped in a tattered shawl in a neighborhood east of Quito. FHC's social worker has investigated every clue to try to determine the mother's identity. (Ecuadorian law requires that all efforts be made to reunite the child with his birth family if possible). Lucas is healthy and doing well at FHC-Quito.



Florinda ("Flor"), 4, was welcomed at FHC in mid-May. She spent the first few years of her life in a children's home and in foster care. She is cheerful and active, despite significant mental and physical delays. Her energy and enthusiasm will help her reach her potential in life. She receives occupational and physical therapy every week. Flor is ready to be adopted, and we hope there is a special family, perhaps reading our newsletter at this moment, who will become her forever family. Please contact: melinda@forhischildren-ecuador.org for more information.





Dean Rosnau, FHC Board member and friend **Jock Argust**, (at left) of San Diego, CA, milled and installed 23 interior doors (double, single and “Dutch”) at FHC-Latacunga in early May. THAT is a lot of doors! Also helping out during this time were **Al Bottomley**, (below at left) electrical contractor, and **Chet Slabaugh**, (below at right) mechanical and installation technician, both from Dalton, OH, who spent a week at FHC-Latacunga installing a generator and automatic transfer switch, commercial washers and dryers, a central vacuum system, automatic door closers, water filter system, and more. They all worked sun-up to sun-down, waking each morning around 4:30 AM to FHC-L’s rooster. (Clark confided that several times they thought of having a special chicken dinner, but resisted the urge...). Thank you to Dean, Jock, Al and Chet for all your hard work given to the children’s home in Latacunga.

Church groups in the U.S. and Canada come every year to spend time at FHC. They build, paint, clean, play with the children, change diapers, feed bottles and lend extra arms and hands wherever they are needed.

We thank the team from **Saint Paul Lutheran Church** of St. Joseph, Missouri, and leaders Rachel and Konrad Gunderson for their recent visit in late May. Among the many activities they participated in, the team of 12 also painted the interior doors of the first floor



of FHC-Latacunga. In their group photo at left, are just some of the donated clothing, blankets, shoes and books they brought to FHC.

Glenkirk Presbyterian Church of Glendora, California visited FHC in early June. Team leaders John and Ginny Wiedmann (below, 5th and 6th from the left) led their team of eight in

a busy itinerary that left FHC a more colorful place after all their professional painting. Thank you to these churches and their efforts in planning trips to FHC. We appreciate your sacrifice of time, energy, and finances to bless this ministry.





Staffing changes are occasionally necessary, and when former FHC psychologist Raúl left FHC in March, we were fortunate to have **Susana Oleas** (at left, with Carlos and Jessica) join our professional team at FHC. Susana is a child psychologist with a lot of experience with children in protective care. She works full-time at FHC-Quito, and coordinates her work with other members of our professional staff. Welcome, Susana!

Lovely **María Antonia**, 3 ½, (at right with her parents), met her forever family in late June. Magnus and Kristin are very happy with their beautiful new daughter and hope to return home to Vasterlan, Sweden in mid-August. María Antonia is their first child. Both Magnus and Kristin work in internet project development and administration.



The new family spent about three days together at FHC. Within hours of their first meeting, Antonia reached for her parents' hands and soon she let them take her in their arms. On day three of their visit, Antonia said she was ready to go "home" with her new mommy and daddy, and the next day she joined her parents at their hotel for the remainder of their stay in Quito. There were tears shed in the next few days, usually at bedtime when Antonia missed her caregivers and "siblings" at FHC. Within a couple of days, her parents reported that she was doing well, the tears were diminishing, and she has learned a few words in Swedish. She enjoys correcting her parents' Spanish, too! Congratulations to this new family.



L-R: Caregiver Lupe encourages María to approach her new parents, while FHC Psychologist, Susana Oleas is ready to facilitate the first meeting between child and parents in FHC's Harlow House living room.

Melinda (Vaughn, one of FHC's founders and directors) has been in Los Angeles for the past couple of months helping with the care of her dad, Harold ("Buzz") since his diagnosis of congestive heart failure. Please keep her parents in your prayers. Melinda and her family give thanks for every day with Buzz. *"Each day is a gift from God – that's why it's called The Present."*

Again, we thank you for interest in reading our news, for your prayers and your support. Every day we thank God for this ministry to His children – and that we are all a part of it. There is nothing more satisfying in life than being on the journey that is His will.

May God bless you,

Clark and Melinda Vaughn, Directors
Verónica Rodríguez, Administrator

For His Children - Clark and Melinda Vaughn, Directors
 Casilla 17-08-8545, Quito Ecuador
 Telephone/Fax: 593 2 247 0832, 280 8424
 Email: info@forhischildren-ecuador.org
 Website: www.forhischildren-ecuador.org (English and Spanish)

Tax-deductible donations may be sent to:
 For His Children
 9455 Elk Ridge South, Divide, CO 80814 USA
 Telephone: 719 686 0132
 Brent Bourdeau, FHC Ministry Assistant

Thank you to the Vineyard Christian Fellowship of Red Bluff, CA for printing and mailing this newsletter for more than ten 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. Let us know! Thank you.