



Asociación Hogar de Vida Para La Niñez

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2009 VOLUME 5 No. 3

Financial Donations Administered by Partnering Ministry:

Children of Promise International: Hogar de Vida Costa Rica
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PRAY WITHOUT CEASING

- ✠ for God's perfect plan for the Stromstad's year of sabbatical in the states.
- ✠ for God's wisdom and understanding for Helen as she takes on the role of Director for 2010.
- ✠ for the remaining donations needed to complete the security wall and surveillance system.

IN THE SPOTLIGHT

When the Lord confirmed to Tim and Dena that 2010 was to be a year of sabbatical for their family, many questions arose concerning who would cover all their areas of responsibilities. One of the most critical and important areas to cover was that of Director. Everyone knew that finding someone who possessed the leadership and administrative skills needed to fulfill the role of Director was only half of the puzzle. Even more importantly, the new director needed to have the expertise and the gifting to navigate the complex cultural community of Hogar de Vida staff, missionaries and volunteers. At any one point in time, several very distinct cultures are represented offering quite the mix of opinions and approaches to accomplishing the same goal, all of which weigh out as equally acceptable, depending on your view of point!



To fill this challenging position God has brought Helen Smith, a veteran missionary and 23 year resident of Costa Rica as the interim Director of Hogar de Vida for 2010.

Helen, a native of New Zealand, spent a number of years living and working in ministry in Europe. After meeting and marrying her North American husband, they moved to the states for a time, before coming to Costa Rica as faith missionaries.

As life continued and their family began, Helen took on the rather courageous task of home schooling their three children. When their son Jonathan was diagnosed with cancer, Helen became his advocate, and "second" oncologist spending hours researching the diagnosis, making sure Jonathan was receiving the best treatment and care. When God called Jonathan home to Heaven, Helen fulfilled a personal request of Jonathan's when she wrote his life story.

Hogar de Vida is not only proud to have Helen as the interim Director, but excited to see what God wants to do through her.

We wish you a very blessed Christmas and a joyous and prosperous New Year!

Thanks for loving us! With all our love, Hogar de Vida

FRUIT FROM THE FIELD

- ✠ Praising the Lord for \$25,000 already donated towards the security wall project
- ✠ Helen, with her gifts of administration has accepted the position of director for 2010.
- ✠ Tim and Dena have secured a rental home in the States and bought a reliable vehicle.

UNITED -o- REUNITED

Hogar de Vida provides a Christ centered temporary home for "at-risk" children during which time the Costa Rican child protection services investigates the reasons necessitating the removal of the children from their home. Following the investigation and depending on the findings, the children are returned to their family, placed with extended family or made available for adoption into a new family.

When Roxana (pictured in the center) arrived at Hogar de Vida as a new born baby, everyone noticed that there was something very



familiar about her face and her last name. Quickly it was decided that Roxana was the sibling of Roni (pictured in the left front corner) who had been adopted from Hogar de Vida a few years earlier.

The couple who had adopted Roni and Juan (pictured on the right) another sibling was elated when adoption services

called and asked if they were interested in adopting Roxana. In Costa Rica where the economy hardly allows for a family to afford two children, a family saying "yes" to a third child is only because of the grace and perfect plan of God.

No one was sure how the first visits would play out because of Roxana's strong, determined personality. But when God makes a family, He bonds them together in ways beyond anyone's wildest imagination. From the first visit Roxana was a part of her new family as if she had been with them from her conception. In only a few short visits, she was ready to go home permanently with her new family.

Still feisty as always, Roxana has settled into her new family with a sweet peace that is evidence of God's perfect plan in this lovely family's life.

Thank you Lord for this wonderful blessing and miracle for Roxana.

CASA UNO ¿ QUE PASA ?

School is out for the year and having done their very best in all their studies, everyone is relaxing and enjoying vacation with a much more laid back daily schedule. Well maybe not the tias, but the kids are!



December has been filled with the excitement of Christmas fiestas, gifts, piñatas and special visitors all leading up to the true reason for the Christmas season - the birth of our Savior and Lord Jesus Christ.

Olga is enjoying an extended vacation away from Hogar de Vida, but at times it's hard to tell because she thankfully visits often. For personal reasons Tia Rosa needed to resign, leaving a huge hole. God was faithful and brought Tia Evelin to fill in the gap. Little Shelsy went home with her mom and baby Mario joined the family. With only two boys and twelve little girl mummies, the boys never lack for enough loving.

CASA DOS ¿ QUE PASA ?



With Marielos back in the saddle again, missionary Cherie was able to begin working on details for beginning the permanent home. She returned to the states for a time of sharing the dream and securing supporters. Tia Lisbeth joined the staff blessing all with her

youthful energy and enthusiasm. Roxana got her long awaited new family and little Armando was reunited with his very excited mom. Tiny baby Juedy arrived in October with his huge, bright sunshine smile.

Everyone is anxiously awaiting Christmas and very much enjoying the fiestas and special activities that December always brings. With the rainy season over, it's everybody in the swimming pool in a desperate attempt to dissipate at least some of the abounding energy that comes with a big family of rambunctious children. The big boys thoroughly enjoy "working" with Oscar and are often seen following close behind pushing their little orange wheelbarrows.

CASA TRES ¿ QUE PASA ?



There's never a dull moment in casa tres, with five kids in school, Tia Merla studying at University, Tia Lindsey studying for her comprehensive, overall, final high school exam and Tia Lourdes on the worship team at her local church. With school out for the year, a sense of peace and tranquility has replaced the way too busy schedules of the school year.

Jousephine and Jhurgin went home with their mom, followed in close with the departure of baby Xinia. Not to worry that life may be too serene because even before the dust settled with departures, arrivals brought David and his younger brother Tobias, baby Vince and baby Harol. Tia Liseth was hired as a live in tia and together with her 3 year old daughter, Fio, brings the total number of this wonderful, loving family to a grand total of sixteen.

PROJECT PROGRESS

With Grant officially on board as the Property Manager, Tim has breathed a sigh of relief knowing that the never ending, seemingly always multiplying tasks, repairs and construction projects of Hogar de Vida are in very competent, skilled hands. Grant has started from the ground up creating a system that will help prioritize the many demands for his attention, skills and time. One of the first major jobs was to oversee the trimming of a huge tree that was dangerously encroaching upon the roof of Casa Uno. Although professionals were hired for the job, a miscalculation caused one of the main branches to fall on the ham radio tower, adding yet another project to the list of things to do. All the Hogar de Vida men rallied together to plot a plan to safely disassemble the tangled tower. The adventures never end!



The security wall project is still a major priority and because many of you responded to the need, \$25,000 has been given towards the wall. A \$3000 matching fund challenge was presented

and quickly met. God is continuing to touch people's hearts and has prompted a second friend of Hogar de Vida to present yet **another matching fund challenge of \$3,000**. With barely two weeks remaining in this year, we share with you another opportunity to double your investment in the Kingdom of God before December 31, 2009. Will you help us attain this goal also?

Email info@promise.org for more information on how to give towards the security wall matching fund challenge.