



2010 VOLUME No. 4

# Asociación Hogar de Vida Para La Niñez

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## Financial Donations Administered by Partnering Ministry:

Children of Promise International: 6844 Loop Road, Centerville, OH 45459-2159 Email: [info@promise.org](mailto:info@promise.org)

### New Joys from Tim's Heart

(Excerpts from a recent call)



"We love people! That's been my heart from the beginning, to help Dena, or to go house-to-house asking the Tias, 'How can I help, or, how can I serve you?' But lately, I'm finding deep pleasure ministering to the parents

who come every Thursday to spend time with their children, to greet them and listen to them."

"It's Satan's work that has 90% of the parents unchurched and in spiritual darkness. It's the parents' actions that have the children pulled by the authorities and sent to our homes. They want to change so they can get their children back."

"A young Nicaraguan couple, probably illegal, came to visit. I noticed they looked so defeated and resigned to their loss, except they just glowed when they held their baby and enjoyed every second. Never one to hold back in asking pointed questions, I asked, 'Do you love your child?' 'Yes!' What are you doing to get your child back? Are you fighting for your child? Who else will fight for your child? You have rights. Be respectful, but you need to get over to Social Services and demand your rights. Tell them you love your child and let them know you want your child back."

"Three months later, they returned to say, 'Thank you, thank you, thank you. You have changed our lives. We're getting our child back in a few weeks.'"

"I've found that I am strategically positioned to help resolve the root of the problem that got their child here. They are ready to change. I can motivate them, and then tell them about Jesus."

**Tim Stromstad**

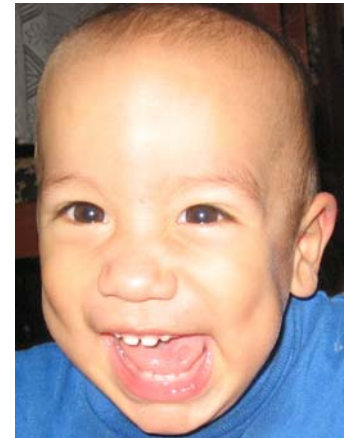
### David's Story

He came from the hospital weighting four pounds. Abandoned by his mother, he had no name, no desire to eat, and NO WILL TO LIVE! Our Home of Life Staff fed him every couple of hours while literally praying him into life. We named him David Miguel (Michael in English) after King David and Archangel Michael!



In our home, with love, care, prayer and a name, David prospered. He became a bright light and the life of the party.

At 1-½ years of age, we were informed that David's abandonment status was final and that a couple was considering him for adoption. They were pastors and unable to have their own children.



The night before Social Services called, the Father dreamed he would have a son and his name was DANIEL! Unknown to us at the time, although we had named him DAVID, the Social worker had written a name on the legal paperwork in the original rush to get him into Hogar de Vida. So when Social Services called to invite them to come and meet **Daniel**, the Father came undone. When the whole story came out, we were all in awe of seeing how God put this family together!

## Why did I ask Tom and Jeff to lead the Volunteer Support Team?

We have many people coming on teams or wanting to help. Because I do not have the skills or time to effectively connect, we simply grow apart and nothing happens. I feel I am not being a good steward of what God is sending.

The USA-based Volunteer Support Team will aid us by doing mailings and be a magnet to draw people and support to our mission. Forming such a team has been on my heart for many years, to help "Connect the Dots". This year the Lord has made it clear that it's time to start this team with Tom Cribbs and Jeff Wood as leaders.

We go back with Tom and Linda Cribbs to our first team that came to Guatemala. It was a youth group from Journey Church, Rochester NY. Their two children were on that team! It was a powerful experience for all of us as God did a deep work in our hearts. When Tom and Linda came for two weeks in 2008, I learned that Tom was gifted with the writing and organizational skills I needed to connect with.

Jeff Wood came as a Team Leader in 2001. His daughter came on teams as well. I see Jeff as my brother from a different mother! :) God has knit our hearts together, and put on Jeff's heart a deep desire to be of service.

So getting Jeff and Tom together as captains of this team is truly a "DREAM TEAM COME TRUE" for me and for Homes of Life in Central America!

I will be apprising the Team of our current needs and future vision, enabling the Team to help us with mailings, as well as follow up with people from the US who want to help. They will connect more dots than I ever could think of!!!!

I am so excited. for this has always been a burden for me and now I have two guys who want to lift up my arms and help. Please receive them as you do the Stromstads. We are grateful for them and pray that they will be blessed in all they do while helping us with the ministry our Lord Jesus has handed to us!

### From the USA-based Volunteer Support Team

We are members of two Rochester, NY churches who share a common passion for the work of Tim and



Dena Stromstad. As teens and adults, we've been to the Homes of Life in Central America. One couple has adopted a child from there. As I write today, Jeff Wood and a team from Journey Christian Church are packing their duffles to leave tomorrow to build a new playground in Guatemala. We have seen up close and

personal the scars, burns, metal teeth and anger the children bring to the homes-the consequences of poverty, abandonment and abuse. We've seen the children light up when someone holds them, loves them, talks to them and plays with them. We've seen the care and compassion of the tias (trans. *Auntie.*)

We are convinced we can help enhance the ministry by taking on certain stateside administrative tasks, freeing Tim and Dena to focus on what they do best. We'll publish the newsletters more frequently to keep supporters better informed, administer the children's sponsorship program, and tell their story wherever and whenever we can to expand the number of individuals and churches who support them. And we'll articulate their needs.

This furlough year is important for the Stromstad family as Josh and Ben get acclimated to the US and enrolled in college, as well as taking steps toward Maria's citizenship, spending time with family, and reconnecting with supporters. It's also been financially challenging with the higher living cost in the US, extensive travel, and of course the new cost of college tuition for two and Maria's Christian school tuition. At the same time, costs of operating the homes have increased with a new Costa Rica government requirement for having nurses on site, higher staff costs in general, and some needed facility expenditures, while the down economy affects giving to all charities.

Now would be a particularly good time to consider a financial investment in the ministry, for the Stromstads themselves or the homes. Just make your check payable to Children of Promise International and send it with the attached reply slip. To become personally involved or to let us know of other skills, resources, or thoughts in general, you can indicate that on the reply slip as well.

In His name and for the children,  
**Tom Cribbs**