

A U G U S T 2 0 1 3

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VOZ NUEVA

GIVING A NEW VOICE TO THE CHILDREN OF GUATEMALA IN ORDER
THAT THEY MAY "PROCLAIM WHAT THE LORD HAS DONE."
PSALM 118:17



*This newsletter
is a publication
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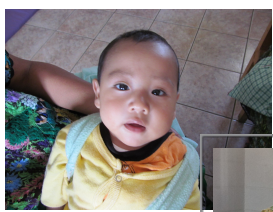
*For Jennifer Giesemann's
Guatemala Mission Fund*

Facing New Realities

I have recently returned from a visit to the States, which was a wonderful time of rest and catching up with family and friends. However, this vacation was bookended by two tragic events in Santa Maria. I have blogged a little about these events on my Facebook page. The day before I left for the States, I received a call that one of my afternoon therapy students, Griselda, had passed away due to kidney failure. The week I returned, I called the father of a 9 month old baby with cerebral palsy I had recently evaluated. He said the baby was gravely ill. The next day, I heard that he had passed away. Working in the States, I had never dealt with the death of any student.

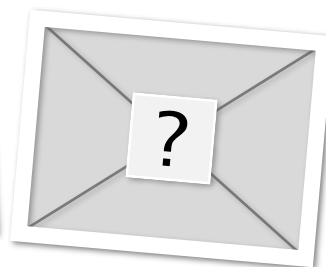
Now, within a month's time, I was dealing with 2 children's deaths. This was a new reality I didn't want to face. In a country where good healthcare is not available for the poor and superstitious beliefs about health run rampant, the

reality of children dying would become a new reality for me. So, what is my reaction as a Christian to this new reality? First and foremost, I seek to comfort and encourage the families who are grieving. I use it as an opportunity to share God's love and tell them that God cares and grieves with them. I visited with both of these families, brought them pictures of their children that I had, and prayed with them. Second, I think we can encourage the parents when possible to seek medical help instead of going to a village healer or just ignoring the child's illness. Finally, I have learned to leave it in the hands of the great Healer and pray that he watch over these children and bring healing whether in life or death. It is not a fun or easy reality to face but one that calls me to seek God's will and His answers instead of my own. Please pray for these two families especially as they deal with the loss of their children.



Pablo and
Griselda, the 2
children who
recently passed
away





If my People will Call on Me

As the school year in the States is just beginning, our school year is slowly coming to a close. We will finish classes at the beginning of October.

Many wonderful things have happened this year, and I ask your prayers for the following people and needs at our school. Thank you for all you have done through your prayers and support this year!



LAURA

Laura is the girl who has the hole in her palate. We recently went for our 2nd visit to the dental clinic to pick up the apparatus for her palate. However, they are going to have to make another one that fits her better. It is also a possibility that she will still need surgery to correct her speech. As surgery is not a possibility at this time due to her difficulty with anesthesia, we are praying for answers for Laura. Please keep her in your prayers! However, when she tried on the apparatus which gave her new teeth, her smile lit up the room! That was worth it to me!!

NEW STUDENTS

I have begun therapy with 2 new students in the afternoon. One little girl, Sandra, who has a mild speech impairment, recently started. She is very smart and sweet but very timid. Please pray that she will progress well in therapy. Another little boy, Juan Carlos, is 3 years old. He has severe brain damage due to a seizure and looks to be about 1 year old. He is not babbling, crawling, or even sitting on his own yet. He also has some feeding issues. He has a long road ahead of him. Please pray for this family as they care for this child and that they can find the help that he needs. I do not have pictures yet of these students but will post them when I do.

A BUSY BREAK

During October and November, the children will be coming in for part of the day for extra help in the classroom and some of the children will be coming for therapy. This is a great time for preparation for the next year and to work more with the parents. I am currently deciding and planning on how to take advantage of this time to benefit the parents and students.