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S E P T E M B E R 2 0 1 3

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 of Jennifer Gieseemann, Speech Pathologist and Missionary to the New Life School, Santa Maria de Jesus, Sacatepequez, Guatemala

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For Jennifer Gieseemann's Guatemala Mission Fund*

An End to Another Year

On July 25 of this year, I completed a full year here in Guatemala. I cannot believe it has already been a year. I have learned and grown a lot this first year. Many changes came about as well this past year. I became an aunt again, I turned 30, I moved to another country and started a new job, and yes, I found my first grey hair (GASP!). I have also learned so much about myself and have expanded my understanding of the world and how God sees it.

October 10 is also the final day of classes for this school year. It has been a wonderful year! I was able to see a lot of progress made with many of my children, and I definitely grew in my understanding of the culture and people here in Santa Maria de Jesus. One population I have had on my heart lately is the mothers of all my therapy students. Many of these mothers are ridiculed and ostracized for having children

with special needs. They are frequently lonely and do not have other women to talk to about their struggles. Many times, they do not know the resources that are available to them. Over the past month, I have been praying for a way to reach out to these women. God has put it on my heart to start a support group/Bible study for these women in the upcoming school year. The school psychologist and I will be leading this group. We are going to be planning and praying for this group in the months of October and November. We hope to start small to really get to know the women. Please keep this group and the mothers in your prayers that God will use it for His glory!



Norma is one of the mothers of one of my students, Joseph

Updates

I wanted to give you some updates on some of the children I mentioned in my last newsletter. There have been some exciting things happening since the last time I wrote.

Laura

Last month, I mentioned we were waiting on the dental apparatus for Laura. Well, we finally received it a few weeks ago. Laura and her mother, pictured below, were elated with this new apparatus. She now has a new beautiful smile with the 3 new teeth that are on the flipper. The hole on her palate is now

covered, preventing food to escape into her nasal cavity. Unfortunately, surgery will most likely be required to improve the nasal quality of her speech. We have started therapy now to work on placing her tongue behind her teeth now that she has a place to put it. Many thanks to the dental clinic and Dr. Silvia at the Clinica Ezell (Health Talents International) for all their help! They provided all services and the flipper free of charge.



Juan Carlos

Juan Carlos is the 3-year-old boy who started coming to therapy about a month ago. He has microcephaly and cerebral palsy. He is not able to turn over or crawl and is not talking or babbling yet either. I recently mentioned him to my physical therapist in Antigua. She is Guatemalan and has been a wonderful therapist for me here. She offered to see Juan Carlos for a reduced rate twice a week. This is many times unheard of here in Guatemala! So, now Maria Josefa, Juan Carlos' mother, takes a 30 minute bus ride down to Antigua twice a week for his physical therapy services and also twice a week comes to school for his speech therapy. She is a very determined mother. Sometimes, we have PT on the same day, so we get to talk there too. I am thankful for this opportunity to build a relationship with Maria Josefa and watch the progress Juan Carlos will make. Please keep this family in your prayers.

