

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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Boys having fun at  
recess!

# Una Voz Nueva

## "A New Voice"

Giving a new voice to the children of Guatemala in order that they may "proclaim what the Lord has done" Psalm 118:17

May 2013

## A New Life for Laura

Meet Laura.



A sweet, yet somewhat shy third grader at

Nueva Vida. I remember meeting her the first time I ever visited Nueva Vida. Judy told me she had had surgery for cleft palate, but it was unfinished. Laura has been on my heart for a long time. When I first moved here last year, I evaluated Laura and realized how affected her speech actually was. It broke my heart that there was nothing I could do in therapy. She has a hole in her palate the size of a dime, and if that hole is not closed off, there is

nothing I can do to help her produce her sounds better. She has been on a waiting list for cleft palate surgery for a while. About a month ago, I received a call saying there was a medical team in Antigua looking for patients with cleft palate. I got so excited as I thought of Laura and what this could mean for her life. I spoke to Judy and her mom and found out that Laura had recently had another surgery to remove her tonsils, and she had not handled the anesthesia well. Therefore, another surgery was not recommended at this time. I was crushed. I thought, "Lord, what are you doing? Isn't this the chance we've been waiting for?" But, God said, "trust me. I am in control."

I began researching other options and found out from a dentist friend of mine about an apparatus that would cover the hole. I then got in touch with Health Talents International, a mission organization here in Guatemala. They are going to be able to make it at little or no cost to us. We are planning a trip to the clinic next week to have the impression made. Laura and her mother are very grateful for this opportunity. Please pray that this apparatus will be a step in the right direction of improving Laura's speech and also her overall confidence. May God be glorified as Laura gets a new chance to communicate and hopefully one day to share what He has done in her life.

## If My People Will Call on Me...

As I began my journey here at Nueva Vida, I was aware of the fact that many of the children came from extreme poverty and abusive home situations. In the past few months, many situations of children I love and know personally have been tugging at my heart. God has been teaching me to leave it up to him and place these children in His care. It is such a hard thing to do, but I know that no matter what, God has

these children in His perfect hands. Please pray for these children who have been abused, threatened, neglected, and left alone. Only God can bring about restoration in their lives. Please pray that He will impart wisdom on all the teachers and administrators at the school as we deal with these situations. Also, all of the school staff have begun a process of delving into the true problems

that are the root of so much evil here in Santa Maria. We are praying that God will reveal these problems to us and show us how we can begin to change the hearts of Santa Maria. This can be a scary, yet powerful journey, so please pray that we rely on God's power and not our own during this time.

Thank you!!

## Nueva Vida Kids

Since my main article is a “spotlight” on one of our students, I thought I’d leave you with some recent pictures of our kids and what they’ve been up to lately! Enjoy!!

This is Yudith. She is in kindergarten and has a form of Down Syndrome. Her sister Carla also has Down Syndrome and has been working at our school for several years.



Griselda with her mom. She attends speech therapy in the afternoons. She was in the hospital earlier this year, but she has now returned to therapy.



Here is Rony in a new walker he is using at school. His sister Mayra comes to therapy with him.



This is Manuel. He is in 1st grade this year, and this is his first year at Nueva Vida. I started seeing him for therapy for stuttering. He is a very sweet, smart, respectful boy, and he is a joy to have in therapy!