

THE ALSETH FAMILY & CASA DE AMOR III NEWS

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JULY/AUGUST AT CASA DE AMOR 3

Greetings dear friends! This has been a busy month but, we always think of you our dear friends and family - we miss fellowshiping with you all and look forward to the day we can see you again! This month brought us a new little boy, 20mo old Juan Gabriel. Bringing the number in our home to 7! (In Bolivia there is always room for one more!) We are enjoying our time with Juan Gabriel; he is a treasure. All of the children are doing well with his entrance into the home and little JG seems happier than a peach to have 2 older brothers and 3 tios to play with. In one week he has already learned how to sword fight! We have a lot of praise reports this month: Mayra and Marcus both had successful mouth surgeries. We were without a washing machine for 3 weeks and had to wash a lot of the laundry by hand and we finally got that fixed! We have received our long awaited vehicle! Thanks to the Gill Family (the same family that owns this home) we have been provided a 21 seater SUV to use until they return from the USA! (Actually it is a 7 seater but, in Bolivia 1 seat = 3 people!) Marcus's blood work came back okay as far as major diseases are concerned and he was treated for infections that were due to his bad teeth. Victoria's blood work was fine as far as major diseases were concerned as well! So, thank you so much for praying with us. God is working all things out on our behalf. Our four "gringo" children have started school this week and all is going well. Although I felt like crying, just like a kindergarten mom, watching my babies leave for the first day of school - after 12 years of home schooling I felt a piece of my heart was walking out the door with my kids! I started a Bible study with Luis, Noemi, Mayra, and Marcus 2 times a week because I found some Bibles and Christian workbooks for them in Spanish. So, they are starting to learn who God is and what He has done. (I've got to teach something...and teaching about my favorite person, God, is easy in any language!) We are still having ups and downs with Mayra and Luis's behaviors but, we feel it is starting to be more ups than downs; and we are seeing definite improvements in both. We are working on teaching Marcus basic knowledge such as his colors, shapes, animal names, etc. because he hasn't been exposed to anything. We are working on speech skills with Juan Gabriel. So, we're staying as busy as ever.



*The Oldest 5 at Casa de Amor III
Luis, Mayra Juan Gabriel, Noemi, &
Marcus *We're all so thankful winter is
Gone!*

PRAYER REQUESTS:

- 1) Health for all of us: gringos and bolivianos
- 2) Peace in this country, because the Movement Toward Socialism and those who oppose it and want democracy, are becoming more and more opposed and they are willing to battle for what they want.
- 3) Ongoing Finances
- 4) Sleep for Rick and I
- 5) Supernatural Love, Wisdom, Peace and Patience
- 6) God's Direction & Timing concerning the rest of the kid's who may come into the home.
- 7) Direction for our future
- 8) Protection
- 9) For the salvation of Mayra's mother, who accidentally suffocated and killed Mayra's 3 mo old younger sister, while drunk and high on glue this week.
- 10) The issuance of our one year Visas and Bolivian ID cards.



BABY ALIJANDRA'S UPDATE:

The first little girl to enter our home reached a milestone in her life and had her first birthday! Little Alijandra was the one that was born premature at only 2.5 lbs. and spent her first 2 mo's in an incubator. Then after that almost 2 mo's in the nutritional hospital. She has come really far in four months! When she first arrived she couldn't sit up, roll over, she had no hand/eye coordination at all, and her head was flatter than a board. She had no hair on the back of her head. She was prone to respiratory infections and had amebas. Now she can sit up, roll one direction, feed herself a cookie, crawl, pull herself up on things, and clap her hands! She has hair on her head and it appears a bit rounder. She hasn't had to use her inhaler in months and she's been gaining weight just fine. She is quite the little character...always happy and always very easily entertained. So, we were saddened this past week when she visited the neurologist for the first time. The doctor diagnosed her with Fetal Alcohol Syndrome. We had been somewhat concerned that she still doesn't say a single word and that she

sometimes acts autistic by banging her head or rocking her head from side to side. But, we thought it was just due to her time lying unstimulated in the hospital bed for so long. So, thanks to her alcoholic mother, Ali is going to have a lot to overcome in this life! Thank goodness we have an Overcoming God! We're praying for wisdom on how to best help her.

Alijandra's Birthday**BABY VICTORIA'S UPDATE:**

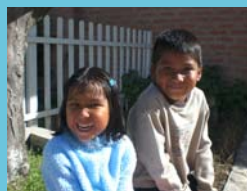
Victoria has come miles this past month as well. She has returned to have her second set of x-rays on her skull and her head fracture is completely healed. She has had some problems with the formula often acting colicky and not being able to sleep at night or in the day due to pains in her stomach. However, after trying 4 types of formula we have found one that seems to work the best for her. Now she is on a schedule and only needs a bottle one time in the night. Rick and I take turns with the night duty. She has gained about 2 pounds. She is very happy and interactive. She has seen a specialist regarding the problem with her legs and he performed x-rays on her hips. They found nothing wrong with her hips, so they feel that the problem may be due to brain damage caused by the fracture and that it is somehow causing her legs to curl the way that they do. She will continue to see the neurologist at 3 months to verify what is going on and if this indeed is the problem. We

7 LBS

are praying for physical healing and for every area that may have been damaged by her mother's violent attack on her life. Please continue to pray with us and for the continued progress of her health issues!



"But thanks be to God, Who gives us the victory making us conquerors through our Lord Jesus Christ. Therefore, my brethren, be firm, immovable, always abounding in the service of the Lord, knowing that your labor in the Lord is not wasted." -1 Cor. 15:57-58



Proof that baby Juan Gabriel can smile!

