

THE ALSETH FAMILY & CASA DE AMOR III NEWS

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NOVEMBER / DECEMBER AT CASA DE AMOR 3

Merry Christmas Dear Friends and Family! We are so thankful to God for His constant provision, blessing, protection and favor! Without His constant love and faithfulness we would not be able to continue doing what we are doing here! What a full month we have had here at Casa de Amor 3. We had the CIC Mission Conference, the birthday celebrations of Luis age 6, Mayra age 4, and Juan Gabriel age 2. We had the kindergarten graduation of Luis. We had a Bolivian Thanksgiving. We took the 5 oldest kids to a special program at the stadium to see the "Backyardigans Live". We are now preparing for Shekkinah's birthday and the all that the Christmas Holiday brings. With Micaela acting and Shekkinah dancing in the church's Christmas program this Sunday and Christian acting and Micaela, Judah, and Shekkinah singing in the school's Christmas program as well we've got the next two weeks packed full of rehearsals and performances. When the New Year comes our resolution will probably be to take more naps. (It's an official Bolivian pastime anyway and now that we have been here for a year+ we are almost Bolivian.) With a family of 13 people you will always find us celebrating a birthday or sharing a sickness. We've had our share of sicknesses go around the house as well this month it was viruses and fevers that caused rashes. Everyone seems to be doing better with that now! It is the official season for the mosquitoes in our house so now everyone has a different kind of rash! If we want to watch a movie at night, we have to wrap up like mummies in sheets, just to keep the little buggers off! **New abilities:** Ali can walk! She's managed as far as 6 steps on her own and she's working on catching up with her "bbb" (beloved big brother) Juan Gabriel. Ali's favorite pastimes are chasing JG in her walker, grabbing him and pulling him around, taking his toys, and in general getting him to scream anyway she knows how. Then she smiles and shrieks with satisfaction. JG spends his time trying to find a safe place to play, read books, and enjoy his life without her torments. Thus, I changed her nickname to "Ali-Monster". (It was "Ali-Gator" because you could never hold her down to feed her the bottle w/o a Steve Erwin wrestling session first!) JG's vocabulary is increasing daily and so are his smiles! We love & miss you all!



PRAYER REQUESTS:

- 1) Health for all of us gringos and bolivianos; especially Noemi who has been having a lot of problems with chronic nose bleeds.
- 2) God's will & direction for all of our lives and futures.
- 3) That Evo's school referendum will not pass because it would prohibit private schools from operating.
- 4) To find a church that has both a Sunday school program for our 7 little Spanish speaking children; as well as a program for our 4 teenagers.
- 5) Supernatural Love, Wisdom, Peace, and Patience.
- 6) Health for my grandpa Clyde who had a stroke on Thanksgiving and is recovering in a nursing home.
- 7) Protection from the enemies attacks against our family.
- 8) The issuance of our one year Visas and Bolivian ID cards and the return of our US visas.



Luis is the 6 year old brother of Noemi. They were taken off the streets after their mother poured boiling soup on Luis and burnt him severely. Luis is a sweetie just like Noemi. He has done very well adjusting to our home and life at Casa 3. He and Noemi have lived in all 3 homes so they are the official new home inspectors. He came to join us because we had gotten so attached to him at the other home and because he was having a lot of problems caused by his ADD. He was getting into trouble at his previous school and at Casa 2. (In fact he had been kicked out of Kinder more than once.) He has really grown up in the 6+ mo's that he has lived with us and he has behaved better at his new school! With changes in the schedule, and a lot more room to burn off his unending supply of energy, he has been able to overcome a lot of his hyperactivity issues. He is doing great with his behaviors and we hardly even remember how he was before! He is a little gentleman who loves everyone and everything. He is one of the biggest givers we know. It has been a blessing to get to know him and share in the gigantic heart that God has given him. When he prays at night he always surprises and blesses us with the depth of understanding and relevancy he shows in his conversations with God. He is intelligent and catches on quickly to the things we teach him. The only thing he doesn't seem to catch on quickly to; is that he isn't the boss of everyone else... he and Mayra are in a competition every day to see how many times they can be told, "You're not the boss" or "You're not the Tia or Tio." He is the gentlest boy with the babies and always gets them to

laugh and smile. He holds them with care and protects them. He is Mr. Friendly and will greet every stranger with the best manners. When Marcus moved in, the first night Luis offered to share his pj's and stuffed animals with him, so he would be warm and so he wouldn't be afraid. Casa de Amor 3 wouldn't be the home of love without Luis, sharing his handsome smiles and sweet spirit. We are praying for God to work in their adoption process and bring just the right parents to Luis and Noemi! They need a miracle!



BABY VICTORIA'S UPDATE:

Victoria is doing as great as ever! She is gaining weight, sleeping well, and keeping us all entertained with her personality! She gives new meaning to the words, "Bundle of Joy". She is working on sitting up this month. She can grab toys and put them in her mouth with both hands. She needs prayer for her digestion system because we've tried just about every milk there is here and she always seems to have problems with digesting it. She is living proof of God's love and faithfulness in action! We can't wait to see what God has in store for her little life!



Shekkinah working at the Missions Conference held at the Cochabamba Int. Church. Rick and the kids set up an information booth, showed a video, shared flyers, and answered questions.



Thanksgiving Day 2008 in Bolivia



Rick & Kathy Alseth thealsethfamily@yahoo.com

See us at: www.thealsethfamily.com