

# THE MISSION NEWSLETTER



JOSE AND SHARI SALAZAR  
Chichicastenango, Guatemala C.A.  
September, 2010

## OUR HOME!

Soon after our trip to the U.S., we met with the director from a nearby orphanage to request the transfer of 2 children that they have in their home. We have worked with this home with various activities in the past 6 years since we have been in Chichi. There is a brother and sister from that home that we are hoping to be able to raise. The director has met with her board to present our request to them and we are still waiting for them to make their decision. We have a strong desire to raise these specific two kids and we pray that the Lord will allow us to do that. On September 3 we received our first 3 kids into our home! After receiving a call from the judge telling us of a need to place 3 siblings, we accepted and went to pick them up. Pascuala, Jose Luis and Marta are the new addition to our family! After such a long wait, we are so happy to have begun the work God has called us to do! After only a few days we are exhausted but things are already going a little smoother as we have begun to have more of a routine.

If we are able to receive the previously mentioned 2 children, we will not be receiving any more children for awhile as we focus on meeting the needs of the kids we already have. We will be out of bedroom space in our home until we build another addition.

We ask that you lift us up in prayer as we seek the Lord's wisdom in how to raise these children!



*Family of 6!! From left to right: Shari, Rebekah, Jose Luis, Pascuala, Jose & Marta*

## Moving things around

We were able to move the laundry room into our walk in closet in order to open up another room for kids! We are very excited about having another bedroom for our kids!

We are so thankful for those who have helped us get to this point and also for those continuing to support us monthly. We still have the need of more monthly support because at this point we have coming in monthly enough for a little more than half of our operating budget with kids.

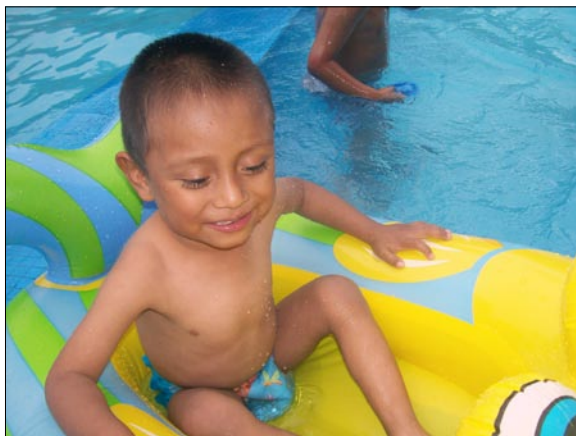
# The First *NO*

We had been back a couple of weeks in Guatemala when we received a call from the NCA (National Council of Adoptions) asking us if we could take a 3 month baby boy. We asked if we could call them back with an answer. And they gave us 30 minutes. We began to pray and ask the Lord if this baby was supposed to be in our home. And before the 30 minutes were up we received the call back. We felt like we had to say no even though our initial desires were, Yes, Yes! We felt peace by saying no because the baby was 4 hours from where we are and that meant that Jose would have to regularly travel there to visit the judge. The hearings are normally at 8am. That would mean waking the baby up by 4am whenever the judge wanted him brought in. In our home we have to allow a visitation time if there are family members who have been approved by the court to visit. If we receive children from outside of our area, it is very likely their family would never be able to afford to visit even if they wanted to. (Not every child will necessarily have living family) Like I said before we when first received the call we really wanted to say yes. But we believe that is where prayer is so important. If we had felt led to take this baby boy after praying even though he was from so far away, we would have obeyed and followed through, but this was a no to us. We believe that the Lord has called us to this work and that He already has specific children that He is preparing to be in our home. Please pray for us as we continue to seek His face for discernment in receiving His precious children.

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## Pool day with kids from Lemoa Orphanage

We were blessed to have a sunny Saturday towards the end of July. I say blessed, because this is the rainy season here and many days are cloudy or we just see the sun for a few hours in the day. But we



planned a day at the pool with the kids in hopes that it would be a beautiful day, and it was! The kids got there around 11am and stayed until after 4pm! No rain that day.

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## Day of the Bible Celebrated

During August we began attending a local Guatemala Church. Their services begin with Sunday School at 4pm and then church service after that on Sunday evenings. This schedule will allow us to still attend our missionary church service on Sunday mornings! We were very pleased with the teaching of the Word in this church and think it is very important for our kids in Casa Salazar to be involved in a Spanish speaking church. On August 21, the service was a special one to honor the Bible. It was beautiful to see the children up front quoting Scripture that they had memorized. This is exactly what we are looking for in a church for our kids—that they put the most importance in the Inspired Word! It was also beautiful to hear a group of women called the “Quiche Group” go up front and quote Scripture in their native tongue of Quiche. The translation of the Bible was just recently completed in Quiche by a beloved missionary, Bill Vasey. The whole month has been dedicated to special events to celebrate the Bible.

## Mudslides



While we were in the U.S. in June the volcano Pacaya erupted. We came back from our trip to see Guatemala City with remains of volcano ashes in bags alongside the sidewalks and highways. There were also major mudslides because of a tropical storm causing much rain. Many people's homes were lost or dangerous to return to and some even lost their lives. There is a park of sorts outside of Chichi in a valley. There is now a river running through it and the basketball court is buried in mud. As it continues to rain daily and will continue to until around November, there is always continued threat of more mudslides. We have had to make a couple of trips to Guatemala City (a 3 hour drive on the Pan-Am Highway) and we have seen new mudslides on these trips as well.

Please pray for the families directly affected—that they may see God's glory even in the midst of suffering and that He will provide for them a safe place to live.

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## Need

A lot of preparation goes into the Camp we put together each year for the youth from Potter's House Ministry (near the Guatemala City Dump). So as we begin our preparations, we are thinking ahead of a need that we have. We will hold camp again this year here in Chichi for 2 weeks beginning at the end of November. We are looking for people who would like to come down to help teach at camp. We need people who could teach: English classes or special classes (such as art, music, cooking, etc...). We also could use someone to lead outside games and evening activities. If you



are interested in reading about past camps, go to <http://www.missionsfrontier.org/casasalarnewsletters.html> and check out one of our English Camp newsletters. If you are interested in coming down on a mission trip with this as your service project, please let us know! Or if you would like to contribute specifically for this work, you can send a donation to Missions Frontier and specify that it is for English Camp 2010. Thank you!

# “Only 7 Children’s Homes are Authorized to Function”

From a total of 110 private children’s homes that are dedicated to taking care of minors, only 7 have been authorized to run, says Elizabeth Hernandez, president of National Counsel of Adoptions (CNA).

Byron Vasquez, director of CNA, says that a total of 5395 minors are “citizens” of these children’s homes, and the majority of these places are not authorized to be doing this.

Even though the total of homes is 110, there are actually more than that because some of the homes have more than one branch. So when counted this way, there are 135 children’s homes. When counting the homes this way, another 849 minors have to be added to the list as well.

There are only 7 homes that have completed all of the paperwork needed to be approved by the CAN. There are another 76 homes that are in the process and there are another 27 homes that have not even begun the paperwork at all. Hernandez says that they only have until August 31 to present their paperwork.

Yesterday, the newspaper listed the standards that need to be completed by these homes. They must first be approved by the Health Department and Education Departments before coming to us, the National Council of Adoptions for authorization.

By Sandra Valdez, Guatemala City (translated by Shari Salazar)

Prensa Libre, August 26, 2010

[http://www.prensalibre.com.gt/noticias/justicia/Solo-casas-hogares-autorizados\\_0\\_323367910.html](http://www.prensalibre.com.gt/noticias/justicia/Solo-casas-hogares-autorizados_0_323367910.html)

This article came out in the Guatemalan Newspaper on August 26. You can go to the above webpage if you would like to see the article yourself. The NCA is a fairly new entity and the standards that we were required to meet in order to open, all orphanages, even those already up and running, must meet these same requirements. As you can see from the article not many of yet completed that! We are one of the seven mentioned above! We are so thankful to have their approval so that we can begin to legally work with children!!!

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## Some scripture reading we’d like to share...

“The Lord is King forever and ever; the nations will perish from His land. You hear, O Lord, the desire of the afflicted; you encourage them, and you listen to their cry, defending the fatherless and the oppressed in order that man, who is of the earth, may terrify no more.” Psalm 10:16-18

“Do you not know? Have you not heard? The Lord is the everlasting God, the Creator of the ends of the earth. He will not grow tired or weary and his understanding no one can fathom. He gives strength to the weary and increases the power of the weak. Even youths grow tired and weary, and young men stumble and fall; but those who hope in the Lord will renew their strength. They will soar on wings like eagles; they will run and not grow weary, they will walk and not be faint.” Isaiah 40: 28-31

## Pastor's Conference

Jose had the opportunity to go to Cotzal (a village about 4 hours away) to help in a conference. He helped translate sermons for a couple American pastors. He was very encouraged to be translating such sound doctrine and for so many Guatemalans to have attended the conference to hear truth. There were about 500 people representing 5 different churches.

### We sent out an email concerning our current need for a larger vehicle.

We were blessed to have some people give specifically for that need. We still are lacking about \$3500 to be able to purchase the vehicle. Now that we are a family of 6 we officially do not fit in our current vehicle! If anyone is interested in helping towards this need, you can make a tax deductible donation to us at:

*<http://www.missionsfrontier.org/casasalazardonation.html>*

with a memo that it is for a vehicle. Because we are limited in time to buy the vehicle we were interested in, if it is sold before the money is raised, we will have to begin the process of looking for something else.

We are so thankful for those who have been supporting us monthly. We are in need of more monthly supporters in order to meet our full budget and provide for all the kids' needs. Some of the needs include paying a social worker and psychologist, education, pediatrician, besides your basics of food, clothing, etc.

## Thankfulness

-We had a wonderful trip to the U.S. We are thankful for the people who opened up their homes to us as well as the opportunity to share. We are very thankful for the financial support and verbal encouragement we received while there!

-Rebekah has been a very easy going baby and we are so thankful since this will help us so much in the transition of adding more children to our home!

-August 2, was 8 years since Shari moved to Guatemala—the Lord has been so faithful!

-Thankful for Shari's residence finally going through!!! My final interview was August 17 and I am officially a resident of Guatemala! I am still a U.S citizen, but with my Guatemalan residence I am free to stay in Guatemala (I used to have to renew my Guatemala visa every three months and leave the country every six months!)

-Shari and Jose celebrate 4 years of marriage August 12

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## Other Prayer Request

-pray for discernment in receiving our first children and for favor in the case of the 2 we have already asked for  
-protection in travel

-those affected by mudslides

-helpers for camp

-a size appropriate vehicle for our new expanded family

-alcoholism's hold on so many in Chichi

-Salvation for the lost of Chichi and that the local church would be strengthened by growing in the Word.

-the 3 new children in our home!

You can contact us as: [salazar@missionsfrontier.org](mailto:salazar@missionsfrontier.org)

You can visit our webpage at: <http://www.missionsfrontier.org/casasalazar.html>