

## Thankfulness



### Praises:

- The Lord continues to guide and direct us daily.
- Gina's mother is doing better, and that Gina was able to go and help them through a rough time.
- The kids in the center continue to learn about Jesus and grow in Him.
- Our staff does a wonderful job of showing and teaching Jesus.
- We have more volunteers helping to provide great activities for the kids in the center.
- We celebrate a new relationship with an organization called Living and Learning that provides interns and is a mutual benefit to all involved.

### Prayer Requests:

- Pray for our whole family. Gina's mother has been struggling with some health issues.
- Pray for three of our boys who are struggling with the overwhelming draws of the world that seem cool to them but are very harmful to them.
- Pray for the monthly parenting classes that it produces fruit in the families.
- Pray for the salvation of the kids and parents. We want the Lord to do a revival in the whole area.
- Pray for wisdom as we search for a new facility in the local area for the center.
- Pray that Samantha's body continues to heal.

The Thanksgiving Holiday has come and gone but God had given me a beautiful opportunity to really reflect on what I am thankful for. Between my sister's passing on Sept. 27th and Gina's mother falling ill and almost passing, Gina and I have been apart for 33 days in the past two months as we each took turns going to the States to take care of things. Then as I'm holding down the fort here in Ecuador, Samantha got the flu and that quickly developed into pneumonia on the Tuesday before Thanksgiving (first trip to the Dr.). Our plans for she and I to spend the Holiday with other North American Missionaries was also squashed. On Saturday night after Thanksgiving, Samantha became dizzy, pale, had difficulty breathing and still had a persistent fever that wouldn't go away. We were off to the ER where we learned that her O2 saturation levels were dropping into the 70's. Combined with all of this, the ministry was still happening and when you work with people there are always problems to be taken care of. So you may ask "What's to be Thankful for in all of that?" Well, God is good through all of it. Samantha has recovered nicely, Gina's mother is stable and improving each day. Gina is back in Ecuador. God knew the number of my sister's days and she went home to be with Him right when He wanted her to. So, I can give praise to Him and be thankful in all of it. As things began to seem overwhelming, I was able to reflect on James Chapter 1. Persevering in trials of many kinds, growing in faith and reliance on Him to see me through were all in my thoughts. As I felt like God was telling me "suck it up buttercup, I got this", I was able to relax

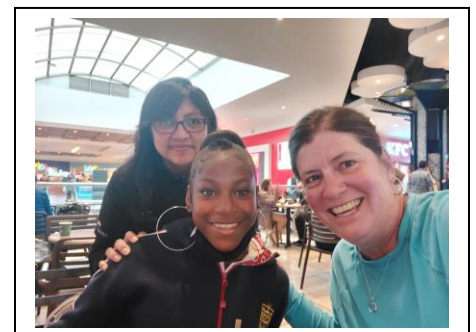
and keep moving forward. What a blessing it is to have hope and trust in the Lord through all the things that seem to go wrong in life, knowing He's still in control. That I am thankful for.

I mentioned new volunteers and a new relationship with Living and Learning in the praises above. The first picture is of Rachel and Carlissa, a young man named Lance didn't make it into the picture. These college students get the opportunity to study abroad for a semester and volunteer with different organizations in the country. We had these three for nearly three months. What a blessing. Then we have Cecilia and Sarah coming once a week to help provide additional activities like art and dance classes. The children in the center have been blessed through each of these people coming to spend time and share Jesus' love with them.



Starting from the left, these girls love dressing up in the costumes donated to us by one of our wonderful supporters. The middle picture is our pre-school class. And then Gina and I were making Camilla into a hug sandwich before she went to school in the afternoon.

Gina and Janeth took Samantha out for her 18<sup>th</sup> birthday, she is one of the girls we are so proud of. She has worked so hard to not only complete four years of school work in two years, when we first started working with her four years ago but has spent the last year and a half in a college prep school. The Light in the Darkness Foundation is paying for her private school tuition to help her reach her goal of serving the Lord and her people as a doctor one day. She is so smart and has such a desire to share Jesus through the medical field. She'll be the first in her family to even go to college. It's been so cool watching her grow in the Lord since we've known her. We believe God is going to use her in mighty ways.



We've been working for a while on trying to acquire the use of an abandoned school to move the center too. We have been notified that we will not be getting that school. There's a little bit of disappointment in that but I'm sure God is protecting the Foundation from something, so I'm good with it. What that truly means is that He's got something better for the Foundation in mind. There is another building that we'll be able to do the same kind of agreement with the government for. Hopefully I'll be able to inspect the inside of it sometime next week. Please continue to pray for God's direction and discernment in all of these dealings.



One of the Bible class sessions in the afternoon. Too cool.

Blessed is the man who perseveres under trial, because when he has stood the test, he will receive the crown of life that God has promised to those who love Him. James 1:12

Many blessings,  
Dan

P.S. We now have all kinds of social media if you are interested in checking it out.

Instagram account: [LightintheDarkness](#)  
FaceBook page: [Quito Light in Darkness](#)  
Website: [luzenlastinieblas.org](http://luzenlastinieblas.org)