

The Welch Family News

February 2009

Craig, Celeste, Brooke, Courtney, Natalie Joy, and Valerie Grace Welch—serving in Ecuador

Photo by Chen Wang

We are now in our home stretch of radiation treatment here at St. Jude's in Memphis. This last week, like many others in the Eastern US, we had some snow. The girls had a great time getting cold and wet and building snow blobs (they haven't quite had the experience required to make them look like men). Valerie has done well through all her treatments, flirting with all the male doctors and nurses and basically telling everyone what to do. The staff at St. Jude's has done a wonderful job of humoring her and making what would otherwise be a traumatic experience into a pleasant one for her.



Eating lunch with Great-grandmother Hinton in Collierville, TN

We feel blessed to have had this opportunity to receive treatment here for Valerie. We won't know for some time whether or not it has been effective, so we continue, as ever, to ask for your prayers. We haven't seen the miraculous healing we once asked for from God, but we have seen miracles. For the first time we are hearing the doctors talk about the possibility of her reaching adulthood.

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Shepherd the flock of God which is among you, serving as overseers, not by compulsion but willingly, not for dishonest gain but eagerly; nor as being lords over those entrusted to you, but being examples to the flock; and when the Chief Shepherd appears, you will receive the crown of glory that does not fade away.

1Peter 5:2

Preparing to Return to Ecuador

We are set to return to Ecuador on March 30 from Miami. We are very excited to get back to the work of ministry, but are a little nervous after being away from it for so long. Our first order of business will be to reassess the current needs in Sacha Runa so that we can prioritize projects for the upcoming visiting groups (we already have three scheduled). In addition to construction type projects, we are planning on involving groups in other projects that we will be working on, such as teaching English or working on the Bible translation project.



The “Ecuador room” from the Family Church’s GIC



Our financial situation for returning is a little grim. Since being back in the US, our support has been a little less than needed. Our expenses have been higher, and donations have been down. A big piece of our budget is covered by the Family Church's GIC fund (about 27%), the rest comes from individual donors, several of which support us regularly each month. Our budget includes some money for travel back to the US (enough for about once per year), but we are going to need to come back with Valerie every three months to St. Jude's for follow up MRI's, so our financial needs will be greater. We know that God will provide.



Valerie being prepped for radiation treatment at St. Jude's

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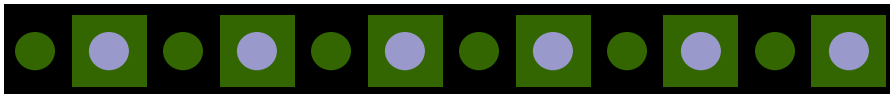
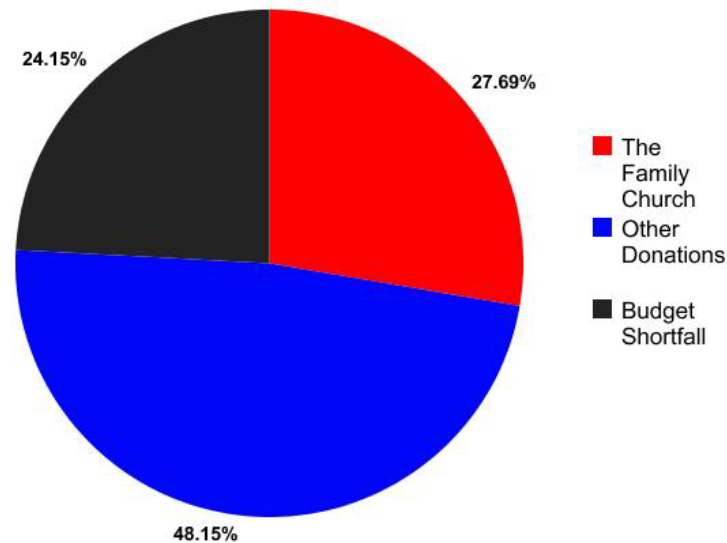
Finally, all of you be of one mind, having compassion for one another; love as brothers, be tender-hearted, be courteous; not returning evil for evil or reviling for reviling, but on the contrary blessing, knowing that you were called to this, that you may inherit a blessing.

PRAYERS AND PRAISES

- Pray that as we prepare to return to Ecuador, we will be open to hear the Holy Spirit and His direction for our ministry.
- Pray that the issue with Valerie's artery will be resolved and not lead to a stroke.
- Praise that Valerie has done so well through her treatment and for the wonderful work that St. Jude's has done for us and so many other families.
- Pray that financial situation improves.
- Pray that Valerie's eyesight will stabilize or improve.
- Praise that we have been so blessed with so much: available medical care, the support of our home church, great friends, and a tremendous God.



Giving for February



UPDATED SUPPORT INFORMATION....

On an average month, we are short around \$900 on our monthly needs.

If you are interested in supporting us financially, you can mail a check made out to :

Eternal Hope Ministries (may be sent to either address on the right)

100% of donated funds go towards our ministry in Ecuador and are tax deductible.



STAYING CONNECTED....

MAILING ADDRESS while in USA:

The Welch Family
8117 NW 1st Place
Gainesville, FL 32607

Support Address:

The Family Church
2022 SW 122nd St
Gainesville, FL 32607

E-Mail address:

candwelch@yahoo.com

Website:

<http://www.thewelchfamily.org>

We update the website often and have lots of photos of our ministry