

The Welch Family News

October 2008

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

Photo by Chen Wang

October has been our month for getting ready to leave Ecuador and prepare for the upcoming treatment for Valerie Grace. Her brain tumor has shown more growth and is pushing her brainstem over to one side and also constricting the blood flow to her good optic nerve. We have prayed and as of today, we are thinking we will be in Florida for 2 months where she will receive two newer drugs that will hopefully shrink the tumor. Making decisions has been difficult this month, but I think that is a good thing. We want this to be the Lord's way and not our own. We feel that our time in Ecuador is not done, and that we will be back after Valerie's treatment. We are not packing much other than school stuff and the few pants and warm clothing that we own. I hope to be better prepared for the re-entry coming up. This month was difficult in that area. Please pray for Craig to adjust well to the differences he might experience and for the girls and I.

Maria's family will be staying in our house while we are gone so that Augusto can recover well from his surgery and not have to climb the stairs to the room above his mom's home where they currently stay.

The team from Teen Challenge of Middle Georgia has worked hard at putting in a walkway using rocks from the river. They also helped pour a new floor and do woodwork on a church in Puyo. They have been a great team and have worked hard and been willing to do whatever is needed. They really enjoyed working along side Maria's dad.

Valerie Grace running to see Maria's mom in Sacha Runa



A bad storm went through Shell while the three of us were gone. One family in Sacha Runa had stopped coming to church. A tree crashed through their home going all the way through the second story. The other house that was damaged in town was an unoccupied home that belongs to Jaime's wife. Craig and Alcibar went out and bought roofing to repair the roof. When Craig went out, he saw all of their earthly possessions hanging on tree limbs to dry out, which didn't happen due to a second rain storm. The roof was completed and the family showed up at church the first Sunday we were back. This is an older mom with many children and grandchildren in the home.

Progress on the church continues and we have been very conservative with each purchase to help ensure that the church is completed. They held their first worship service in there with the team that came. The new windows were in, but they are still missing one wall. A church from Quito is going to come and help put up the last wall area while we are in the US.

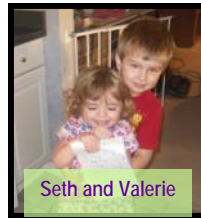
We do not wrestle against flesh and blood but against principalities, against powers, against rulers of the darkness of this age, against spiritual hosts of wickedness in the heavenly places. Therefore take up the whole armor of God that you may be able to withstand in the evil day and having done all, to stand.

Ephesians 6:12-12

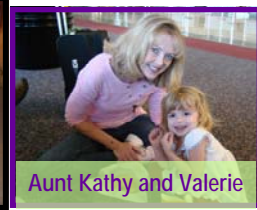
"My grace is sufficient for you, for My strength is made perfect in weakness." Therefore most gladly I will rather boast in my infirmities, that the power of Christ may rest upon me. 2 Corinthians 12:9

PRAYERS AND PRAISES

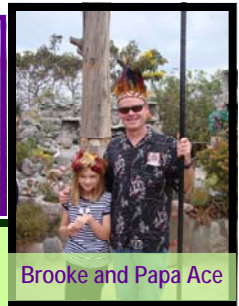
- Pray for continued support as our needs will increase with unexpected food costs and expenses while we are in the US for Valerie Grace along with having to pay for our Ecuador expenses 4 months in advance.
- Pray for guidance as to which treatments Valerie Grace should have
- Pray for Maria's husband Augusto, he is trying a medication to postpone surgery.
- Pray that we all are sensitive to each other's needs as we continue on this journey
- Pray that Valerie Grace is miraculously healed
- Praise for safety and healthy children through all of our traveling back to Ecuador
- Praise for the excitement the believers in Sacha Runa have to help people in their community—new families are coming that have been blessed by church members going door to door
- Praise for the nuggets of truth that occasionally come from Valerie Grace's mouth—we have been blessed!



Seth and Valerie



Aunt Kathy and Valerie



Brooke and Papa Ace

Brooke and Valerie Grace enjoyed their time in the US visiting with family between

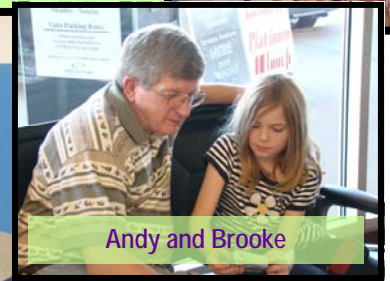
doctor's visits. Natalie and Courtney enjoyed being able to eat cookies for lunch without mom in Ecuador. It was so nice that we were all able to reunite this past week and once again, be together as a family during this time.



Grandma and Brooke



Waiting at St Judes



Andy and Brooke

Pray for
The Welch Family

Ecuador, South America

Craig, Celeste, Brooke, Courtney, Natalie, and Valerie

"Look among the nations and watch - Be utterly astounded! For I will work a work in your days which you would not believe, though it were told you." Habakkuk 1:5

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STAYING CONNECTED....

MAILING ADDRESS while in USA:

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E-Mail address:

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Website:

<http://www.thewelchfamily.org>

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

SUPPORT INFORMATION....

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

The Family Church and write **EC-Welch** in the memo line.

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