

PastorCare

West Michigan

Shepherding the Shepherds & Sheep

November, 2018

For His Children



Jennifer Schneider, Pastor John Smith, Megan Coe
September 14, 2018 Arnie's on 54th Street, Grand Rapids, MI

Growing up on Long Island, I attended New Life Community Church the church John Smith pastored for twenty-three years. Our families developed a close friendship and we have stayed in touch over the years. I recently had the opportunity to meet up with Pastor Smith while I was back in the United States and visiting Michigan. I shared with him about the work that I am involved with at For His Children, a Christian children's home in Ecuador. I originally went to Ecuador to volunteer for a one-year service opportunity with For His Children. During that year, God made it clear that I was meant to stay in Ecuador. I have now been living and working in Ecuador for 10 years and I recently became Executive Director of FHC. It was encouraging to be able to exchange stories and updates with Pastor Smith and to see how God is using countless individuals both locally and around the world to share His love in tangible ways. My prayer is that this story will be an encouragement to you today.

~~~Jen Schneider

I am so proud of Jen Schneider and her devotion and commitment to faithfully serving her Lord and Savior Jesus Christ in Equador. We had such a good time together sharing stories and remembering the great times we had together on Long Island. Once Jen understood her purpose, there has been no turning back. I was so blessed and encouraged by her story and the ministry of For His Children that I asked her to share it with our PastorCare family.



For 13 years, Wilma and Jofre, two children being cared for at FHC, have been waiting for a family.

Wilma was two years old when she was welcomed to FHC in May of 2004. Her parents were not providing a safe living situation due to poverty and mental illness. Wilma has a diagnosis of cerebral palsy and uses a wheelchair. She is a very smart 15-year-old with a smile that can light up a room! She is non-verbal but communicates through the use of an iPad.

In 2015, Shealyn Misiewicz came to intern at FHC. When she returned home she told her parents about a special girl named Wilma and her need for a family. Mark and Mary, Shealyn's parents, felt a call from God to learn more about Wilma and the adoption process. As they started pursuing the adoption, they learned that Wilma had a special sibling-like bond with Jofre, a boy she had grown up with at FHC.

Jofre was brought to FHC in November of 2004 at ten days old. He had been abandoned at the foot of a statue in Quito and no information could be found about his family. Jofre is 13 years old and has a diagnosis of cerebral palsy. He is an intelligent young man with a great sense of humor. Similar to Wilma, he uses a wheelchair and has been learning to walk with the help of a walker. He also communicates through the use of an iPad.

When the Misiewicz family heard about Jofre and the bond he had with Wilma, they knew both children were meant to be part of their family! In September 2017, after nearly two years of diligent work and waiting, the Misiewicz family received the call for which they had been praying. The adoption had been approved and they could travel to Ecuador to finally meet the newest additions to their family!

Wilma and Jofre were overwhelmed with emotion when our psychologist shared the news of their adoption. They have spent the past two months getting to know their family and practicing their English. Wilma has loved spending lots of time with her new big sister, Remi, who traveled with her parents to help with travel logistics. Jofre has enjoyed soaking up lots of attention from his mom and dad.

The adoptions were finalized last year, and the new family was able to travel home to Upstate New York, just in time for Wilma and Jofre to experience their first Thanksgiving.

It has been a privilege and immense joy to care for Wilma and Jofre and be part of this new family forming. We are so thankful to God for sending a family for these precious children and to you for your on-going love and support that helped us care for Wilma and Jofre.



*Jofre and Wilma enjoy a special moment with mom, Mary.*



*New sisters, Wilma and Remi enjoying time together. Jofre is all smiles as he 'monkeys' around with dad, Mark.*



*Dad, Mark, reads letters from Wilma and Jofre as they all meet for the first time.*



*Mom, Mary, says thank you to the Tías and staff for the love and care they have given to her new son and daughter for so many years at their goodbye party.*

## **Who We Are**

For His Children (FHC) is a Christian ministry that funds a residential care program in Ecuador for homeless children with normal and special needs. Our care includes education, therapy, healthcare, and spiritual nurturing for the children, ages newborn to young adult.

Clark and Melinda Vaughn founded FHC in 1990 after they followed God's call to move from California to Ecuador to "love His people." The goal of the ministry is to care for homeless and at-risk children until they can be reunited with their birth family or placed with an adoptive family. Since its inception, over 850 children have been nurtured by FHC.

The ministry has two homes – one in Quito and the second in Lataunga, The Latacunga home includes a special residential program (Casa Esperanza) for older children, teens and young adults who have not been adopted because of their significant special needs. FHC will remain the permanent home for these young adults who are no longer eligible for adoption. Between the two homes, FHC cares for 50 children on average – 40% of whom have a special need.

## **Who We Help**

Referrals of children who need special care come from juvenile courts, hospitals, clinics and other children's programs. A child may be referred to our home for many reasons including economic hardship, family difficulties (including domestic violence or substance abuse), or an unsupported pregnancy. We are always committed to preserving the birth family relationship if possible and advocating for the child's best interest.

## **How We Help**

Homeless children with special needs are the most vulnerable members of society, requiring special medical care and individualized attention. FHC provides this care because we believe that each child is unique and precious, and that we are called to represent the love of Jesus to children who have been deprived of their families' care.

FHC provides extensively trained caregivers who relate to each child as a unique individual. The home environment is clean, warm, bright and colorful. The children receive therapy and learning stimulation programs according to their ages and abilities. School-age children are provided with the opportunity to learn in an appropriate environment. Each child's nutritional and medical needs are carefully evaluated. FHC provides encouragement and hope, helping the children to know that God loves them and that He has a plan for their lives.

## **How You Can Help**

- Pray for the children, caregivers and staff
- Sponsor a child or caregiver through our monthly giving program
- Support FHC through financial giving
- Invite a representative of FHC to your church or community group to share about the ministry

For more information or to make a difference in the life of a child at FHC, visit our website at:  
[forhischildren-ecuador.org](http://forhischildren-ecuador.org)

Paul and Laura DeWeerdts were also members of New Life Community Church where we served. Laura is now in heaven. Every month when Paul sends his support check for our ministry with PastorCare, he includes another poem that Laura wrote. I believe the following poem is a perfect fit for this Newsletter.

## **PURPOSE**

Days go by so quickly  
as we seek for something more.  
We have longings put within ourselves  
to find what we are for

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I feel so fragile and ill equipped
to do all that others ask.
I went to God to provide me with strength
to complete my every task.
To be his faithful servant
is what I truly desired.
But sometimes recognizing His will is unclear
when I am feeling so weary and tired.
I say, "Yes," to too many people.
I have an abundance of unending demands.
Which of my seemingly significant jobs
is actually being His feet and hands?

~~~~~

I want to find my purpose, Lord,  
please lead where my feet need to tread.  
The things that I busy myself with  
should only be deeds done for God.  
Teach me to serve, Lord, in all that I do,  
make that the desire of my heart.  
Show me which obligations to cut  
and when from your will I depart.  
I won't dwell in my inadequacy,  
although I know it's true;  
I am powerless to succeed in anything  
unless it comes from you.

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As the days slip by so quickly
and I seek for something more,
I will look for the things He wants me to do
and know that's what I'm here for.

~~~Laura DeWeerd



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**Thank you for your prayers and financial support.** Please make checks payable to:  
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