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**From:** [Nathan Whittemore](#)

**To:** [Loja Mission List](#)

**Sent:** Monday, March 28, 2005 8:47 PM

**Subject:** [lojamission] almost two weeks recovery

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It's been one week and six days since my surgery. I'd like to say that I haven't grown weary of my room and the same old movies day after day but it seems to be the opposite. And I really like my room! But I'm keeping my chin up and venturing out more and doing just a little light duty work like sitting down and buttering the bread for lunch and maybe walking some of the dishes to their rightful spot in the cabinet. I did make the mistake the other day and picked up a crying Sam, but before I realized what I had done, it was over. It's a reflex in all mothers I believe when they have a hurt and screaming child with blood coming from their mouth. I have had a very smooth recovery I believe after getting over the first few days after surgery. Not to mention that your body will tell you when you have done too much. I just listen to my body and if it tells me to sleep, I sleep! But the most obvious thing to me is the tiredness. It at times is overwhelming. But I just give in to my needs and try not think too much about the rest. I'm done with my antibiotics, and ran out of pain pills so my brain has cleared of the haze and I am ready to start back to Spanish learning.

One of the funniest experiences I had with the inability to speak the language, but needing to converse with others, is the confusion I had between the words "pain" and "sweet" in Spanish. In Spanish "Dulce" is sweet and "Dolor" is pain. So to say, (My stomach is very painful) you say "tengo mucho dolor en mi estomago". But instead I was saying, "tengo mucho dulce en mi estomago" (My stomach is very sweet). I was getting many funny looks from those listening to me, but figured I get many funny looks all the time. I didn't find out until later on why.

I took the last week and half off my Spanish lessons for recovery but am actually looking forward to getting started again. The schedule will be different this new month as we all shift gears to prepare for Michele being gone for a while. Many of you have probably already heard that her grandmother in Florida has cancer and will be starting chemo and radiation treatments very soon. Even though Michele has a large family that will rotate in order to help keep someone there for the majority of the time, the pull is strong for her to be able to be included in the rotation. This will be a good time for her to spend some time loving and caring for someone who loved and cared for her. She has plans to leave around the 7th of April and Return the first week of May. She will be taking Elysia with her. It will be difficult not having her around as she is a large part of what we are doing here and helps tremendously with those things that just need to get done. But keep her and her travels in your prayers as well as Grandma. Not to mention those left here to keep the home fires burning.

We have finally gotten over the sick bug that we were beginning to believe wanted to take up residency with us. He left unwillingly and we still are experiencing some of the repercussions of his stay, like chronic cough and runny noses. But for the most part Jim and Nate are back to work and classes are full for Spanish and all the kids are in school today. We have had a fair amount of rain that has put a damper on washing clothes actually drying clothes. Frankly with my American mind, I don't know how the people of Ecuador survive the rainy season without a dryer. We did break down last week and get one being the chills you get from putting on semi damp clothes tends to stay with you for the day. Between our friend the bug and the chills of the clothes, it became like manna to have it, "a blessing from above".

I have not been one to desire to challenge the reason God does the things he does, but lately I have wondered "why" on a few things. For example, I wonder if the reason I have been blessed to be on the going end of this mission will ever be revealed to me. What significance do I have personally? Will it be as obvious to me as the rain from the heavens? Will I ever really know? I wonder these things but continue to come back to the same thought. My job here is to live Christ. If I am daily living Christ, then I am doing my job here, the rest has been the work of the Father all around me. Sometimes I think we believe it is up to us to begin the work for the Father. But he has been here in Ecuador for as long as the Earth has been in existence. We often forget this and I believe many people feel that they are the first to bring the good news to the people. But what's wrong with looking where the Father is working at and then join him there? He has been working on the hearts and minds of those we will meet in Loja long before we knew we were going on this great mission for Him. Now our job is to look around us and see where He has been working and join Him in what he has been doing for a long time in preparation for us to get here. As we continue to prepare for the work God has for us in Loja please pray for us to continue to look for where the Spirit is working and join Him in the great work taking place in Loja.

Our love goes out to each of you and we hope this letter finds everyone well and living Christ. We continue to thank the Father for each of you as we have all embarked on this mission together for the greater good of Him who has sent us. Thank you for your continued support and love and please know that we could not be doing what we are doing here if it were not for those who have sent us! Which is all of you!

Sincerely in Him  
Carina