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From: [Nathan Whitemore](#)

To: [Loja Mission List](#)

Cc: [Ron Long](#)

Sent: Tuesday, April 05, 2005 1:36 PM

Subject: [lojamission] From the Whitemores

Friends and Family,

I have been feeling so much better these last few days that I can hardly remember the first week after surgery. Like most pains and discomforts in childbearing, we forget the pains of labor and not too long after desire another. Not to say I desire another but as far as remembering the pains, it too passes in time. I hope to be up and going well in the next week. I am keeping myself on light duty but bit by bit I do just a little more to keep my muscles strong. I do rest through the days which makes it much easier to do a little more here and there. In another day or two it will make three weeks recovery.

I had my check up the other day and found out that there was some internal bleeding inside on the right side of my body. This was found out after the hysterectomy was completed and they quickly had to go in and find the bleeding and patch it up. It explained to me why I had much more pain on the right side than any other area. I got a thumbs up and was moved to light duty work as I see fit. I need to take it easy on the stair climbing but I feel my strength returning bit by bit.

This last Sunday night was one of the best Soup Nights we have ever had. They seem to get better and better as friendships are made and a family unity is happening. We had all repeat visitors, some who have been with us from the beginning. After dinner we had the kids (about 20 in all) share their talents in singing and all who wanted to stood up on a bench to sing their favorite song. We would applaud and cheer and the next child with eager eyes would step up for their turn for praise. Some would just get up there for the praise because they couldn't think of a song. Cesar played his guitar and we all sang some songs and enjoyed cotton candy from a passing vender on the street. The overwhelming number of kids has truly touched the hearts of the brothers and sisters who come to help. It is great to see how we call all come together under one roof united in friendship, under God, and leaving all other traditions of class behind. We have a rotation of families who come Sunday afternoons to help in the cooking and planning and this has been a blessing. To see everyone have a part in this Soup Night and share in the work truly makes this a work of all of us. It makes it their Soup Night as well as our Soup Night. We have met some very lovely people with great things to share. God has truly blessed this work and we continue to pray that seeds are being planted in the hearts of these folks.

Our job of planting the seeds may not always give us the benefit of seeing the harvest. To some this may be discouraging but to me, I can see His hand at work all around me and I am just thrilled to be a small part of His great plan. We will be leaving in a few short months from now but our work here will go with these people for years to come. God will slowly work on the hearts and minds of these people and in His time bring them to full maturity. Jim got a e-mail recently from a friend he had in the military. From my understanding, this gentleman was eager to hear the things Jim had to say about Christ as they would work side by side on the vehicles in the shop. With time and busy lives he became just a memory of a time long ago. He wrote Jim recently to tell him that he was just baptized into Christ and wanted to share this great news with Jim, being he was the first one to ever talk to him of Jesus. This is an example of what we are doing here. Planting seeds, living Christ and allowing God to do the watering and growing for the harvest, in His time and in His way all to His glory!

We have some exciting things planned for this month. We will be having a birthday party for a good friend who is turning 15. It is a very special birthday for a girl turning 15 here in Ecuador and a huge fiesta (party) is normally done. It can often be as extravagant as a wedding but we will have a fiesta for her on a smaller scale. We will be planning together with her over the next few days for a fiesta this Saturday.

We will also be planning for Samuels 2nd birthday at the end of the month. Its so hard to believe he is almost 2. I hope to have a birthday party for him at one of our gatherings with our friends and new family during the Soup Night closest to his birthday. I think it will be great for all of us. It is great so share special memories with those you love. This will make a closer bond between us all.

We are also planning and preparing for our dear brother Shayne Flock from Medford Oregon to come for a visit as well. He arrives with us in Cuenca on May 10th and will leave us May 30th. He is a student at Cascade Christian College in Portland Oregon right now and almost finished with his first year of studies. He has a heart for missions and children. He will be doing a survey trip here for 20 days working alongside us for the possibility that in one more year he will join our work in Loja. We have planned a trip to Loja during this time so we can all be together casting the vision of the Lords work to him and showing him how he would make a wonderful addition to the work God has for us in Loja.

Please keep Michele in your prayers as she leaves tomorrow for Quito. She fly's out at 5:00 from Cuenca and will stay the night in Quito to fly out early the next morning to Miami. She will get in to her Grandmothers that evening.

Pray also for me and my recovery, Jim and Nate as they take on a greater work load and for our friends we are making during our Soup Night. Pray for Shayne Flock and his safe passage to Ecuador and the Lords work He has for us in Loja. We continue to stay strong and press on to the next goal. You all are constantly in our hearts and in our thoughts as we journey together for the work of the Kingdom.

I thank my God every time I remember you,
Carina
