

**CONTACT
INFORMATION**

If you are interested in participating with us in this project on a regular basis or a onetime gift please send your financial support to:

In Florida
**The Alex & Julie
Paniagua Fund –
Fund ID: 348112**
C/O Christian
Legacy Foundation
P.O. Box 22774
Tampa, FL 33622-2774

Or

**Alex & Julie
Paniagua**
C/O Operation
Mobilization USA
P.O. Box 444
Tyrone, GA 30290-0444

Or

In California
Thaddeus Foundation
PO Box 1943
Glendora, CA

E-mail:
Alex.paniagua@cr.om.org
Julie.paniagua@cr.om.org

**PRAYER
REQUEST:**

1. For wisdom as we receive new people that are interested in coming to work with us full time.
2. For the women's ministry—that their lives may be touched and transformed.
3. For the upcoming children's event in Las Tablas.

Alex & Julie

APRIL 2009

PRAYER LETTER

From two to three...

We are happy to announce



that our family is now growing from two to three! Julie is starting her fourth month of pregnancy. The first three were pretty rough. However, the last ultrasound showed that our baby looks normal and healthy. We got the opportunity to hear the heart

beat and see the baby move. It was a wonderful sight to see. We ask that you continue to pray for the pregnancy and the development of our baby, but most importantly that our baby will love and follow the Lord with all his or her little heart.

Women's ministry in Las Tablas



"Thank you for coming. You provide such a wonderful break from our reality. I hope you never get tired of coming" said Candy a young mother attending our women's ministry in Las Tablas. Two months ago the women within the OM Costa Rica team in partnership with a local church began a women's ministry in the community at risk called "Las Tablas". It is a community where poverty is not the only thing people suffer; but also drug abuse, alcohol abuse, commercial sex work and domestic violence against women and children.

Every two weeks a group of 15 to 25 women, mainly young mothers, come for two hours in the afternoon while their older children are at school. We meet

at a communal center that is owned by the local church. Three things are normally included during our time together: an ice-breaker, in order to get to know the women better and at a deeper level; a time in the word of God and finally a craft. The craft has been anything from learning how to make cookies to making cards and book-marks. It has been incredible to be a part of these women's lives and special relationships have already been formed.



“God knows no stigma and practices no stigma”.

Churches, Channels of Hope Facilitators Training

“I was sitting looking at the stars, just thanking God for everything. He spoke so beautifully to my heart saying, ‘When AIDS told you it was over, I said it was just the beginning.’” AIDSLink, Churches, Channels of Hope Facilitators’ Training participant.
The Churches, Channels of Hope facilitators training hosted in Costa Rica took place from March 22-28, 2009. A team of 6 trainers, including Alex and Julie, led a group of 23 participants from 13 different nations who participated in this training. It was an in-

tense 7 day course where the participants not only received new knowledge and skills on HIV and AIDS, but hearts where challenged and changed towards those living with HIV and AIDS. During the first few days many participants mentioned they did not know anyone living with HIV, not knowing that three participants within the group where living with HIV. Towards the middle of the course they have the opportunity to share their testimonies which deeply impacted all of us. One participant said,

“Today I truly realized that Christians have HIV and that they can lead normal lives.” Another commented, “God knows no stigma and practices no stigma”. The director of AIDSLink International wrote “Some participants left the workshop with specific plans of action to put in place when they returned home, others left still seeking the specifics of their involvement, but all would agree that they left empowered to be channels of hope in the midst of the HIV an AIDS pandemic.”

Children’s Ministry in Las Tablas

Saturday February 28th was a bright and very sunny day in Las Tablas. The OM Costa Rica team, including staff and volunteers left for the day to spend time with the children living in this community. For several hours we had the opportunity to play games with the children, paint their faces

ents that were present. This activity is part of the children's ministry that is being developed in the community. Every week we visit the children and every two months we have a day activity with them on a Saturday. This is a time for the children to have a break from their reality and experience the love of God in a language they can understand. It is incredible to see their smiling faces as they enjoy each moments of the days program.

and share the love of God through clowns and drama. The theme for the day was “Jesus loves you and wants to be your friend”. The program ended with handing out hot dogs to the children and par-

