

Dear Friends - -

Night before last (May 24) we finally heard the startling clatter of a thousand raindrops hitting our tin roofs all at once as the first the 2008 rainy season's downpours arrived in Peña Blanca. For the last 10 days, residents of our north Lake Yojoa area have been expecting this welcomed relief to the hot dusty dry season. Soon the haze brought on by burning sugar cane fields will wash out of the sky, and it will be blue again each morning. As expected, it rained again last night, and the rumble of thunder is rolling over the hills again this afternoon. It will be a rare day between now and October that we don't experience at least a short cloudburst between 3 and 6 PM. The rain occasionally lasts into the night, but if it does, it has usually softened into a gentler shower. If the daily rain starts early enough, the sun may break out again before it dips behind Mount Santa Barbara for the night.



Little Danielito who has made progress several times only to fall back again has been to the hospital in town 4 times. This time additional tests have showed that a calcified mass in his brain is making breathing difficult.



Rosa Magdalene is the latest Little Darling to join the children at the Casita Feliz. The public health nurse over in our county seat called to ask us to go to a remote village over by the high dam to pick her up. She eats well and gravitates toward loving arms, but we'll probably have to wait at least another week or two to see a smile. Our hearts warm at the smiles of our other Rosas' — Rosibel and Rosa Linda. Tonight at supper 16-month old Eric hadn't started to drink his milk, even though Nurse Lucita had coaxed him to. When Rosa Linda had finished hers, we glanced over to see her patiently holding the cup for him as he drank it all.



Pale frail Nahum's mother and grandmother came down from the mountain to bring him last week as they became alarmed when his feet began to swell. He looked stunned, but stoic, as Mother, neat and clean in a White skirt, wiped her tears as she turned to go back to her other 3 children in the mountain. Life itself is sober business for Nahum.

