

El Alfarero

STUDENT CENTRE
BOLIVIA



“Moulding Lives”
Since 2001

COUNSELLING, CAFÉ, GAMES
PREGNANCY CRISIS CENTRE

QUARTERLY REPORT
FIRST QUARTER 2010

www.alfarero.org

“ANOTHER LEVEL”

Monthly Prayer Meeting

During our monthly prayer meeting for the El Alfarero, Santa Cruz project in January, we spent some time waiting on the Lord for words of encouragement from Him. 2009 had been a hard year, and we needed to hear from God and sense his heart for the project in 2010. This turned out to be a great time, and there were several words that came from different people, which all had the same sense, “The Lord is going to take you onto another level this year”. It was as if to say that although we had struggled through 2009, facing so many obstacles and set-backs, 2010 was going to be on a whole new level. We received these words from God with excitement, and although the first quarter of this year has not been without difficulty, we can see the truth in these words, and the reality of this promise.

DVD and Leaflets Finished

It was really a blessing to have the finished promotional DVD in our hands and know that we were finally ready to launch the next phase of our fundraising campaign. We were particularly grateful to our advice committee for their help in this process, especially for their constructive criticism of our first effort, and the ways they helped us ensure that the final result was the best it could be. It was a humbling experience to have them point out the weaknesses of the first version, but a great experience to see them so committed to the project. We are also very pleased with the promotional leaflet, and we pray that these tools will have a major impact on the financial need of the project. (see the new video, and the revamped website at www.alfarero.org and on the El Alfarero group on Facebook).



Praise God for the way in which He helped us to get the DVD and leaflets done.

Fundraising

We have now sent packages of information to the SIM offices worldwide, to churches and to 45 trusts and foundations, both in the UK and the USA. After all the pre-construction expenses, and publicity expenditure, we have \$90,000 dollars (60,000 pounds) to begin the construction. However, we need a lot more. We are encouraged by the responses of 3 of our supporting churches, who are going to have gift days for the project soon, but we need a good number of positive responses from the foundations we have contacted. Once the construction begins, we really do not want to have to halt it at any stage for lack of finances.



Please join us in prayer for the hearts of donors to be touched, and for the funds to flow.

Paperwork progress

The land papers finally exited the tax office successfully after months of delays, and they are now in the land registry office. We are praying for them to come out soon, so that the building plans can go for final approval. (This should not present any problems, as we already have pre-approval). Then, we will be able begin the construction itself. We are very encouraged to have found a reputable building company who are able to build the building in a 12 month period. This should allow us to comfortably open the new project on our target date of July 30th 2011. This date is the 10 year anniversary of the opening of the original project in Sucre.



Please continue to pray for the permissions needed to begin the construction process.

*****STOP PRESS***** The papers have come out of the land registry office, and we now only have the final approval of the building plans to go, before construction.

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Mission Statement

El Alfarero exists to meet the needs of university students holistically:

- Economic needs – providing nutritious food at low cost
- Social needs – providing a place to meet with friends and have fun without the influence of drugs, cigarettes or alcohol
- Emotional needs – caring for the students, especially through a free service of Biblical Counselling and Pregnancy Crisis Counselling
- Spiritual needs – helping the students to mature in their faith in God and live by Biblical principles

www.alfarero.org
graham.frith@sim.org

DONATIONS TO ANY SIM OFFICE
(see www.sim.org for details)

SIM

Cheque payable to "SIM" with a covering note specifying that the gift is for:

El Alfarero – Santa Cruz project No.BO91140
or El Alfarero – Sucre project No.BO91138

It is also possible to give to the project online at:
www.sim.org

TEAMTALK

We continue to be very encouraged by the team the Lord is putting together for the project. Luke and Priscilla Lundstedt have been through the necessary steps with the mission, and are in full fundraising mode in Australia right now. Lyndsay Collins, from the US, has also been accepted by the mission for an initial two year period, and is coming down here in August. Samuel and Ely, from La Paz, have been to visit a couple of times during the quarter, and we are encouraged that Samuel, our chef, has been accepted to work in a local 4-star hotel for a 3 month period from September, in order for him to get a grip on the gastronomical world of Santa Cruz.



And finally, we are pleased to be able to publicly introduce our new Directors for the Santa Cruz project, Pavel and Fatima Farfan. Pavel is a local

youth pastor, and Fatima is the Director of World Concern for Bolivia. We are excited to have such quality people committed to the Alfarero project. They will take up their responsibilities from January 2011.



Please pray for the team, and praise God for his provision of such quality people.

EL ALFARERO - SUCRE

We are truly very encouraged by how well the project in Sucre is running. Graham was able to visit there in January, to do some preparation and training with them for the new year. Debbie has been twice, taking different team members and Board members from Santa Cruz, for them to truly catch the vision of what Alfarero is. We praise God for his blessings in Sucre.

PERSONAL

It has been something of a tiring quarter, with a lot of different things going on. Trips to Sucre and Cochabamba have been necessary, as well as a lot of chasing of papers and lawyers. Meetings with architects and constructors have been regular, along with prayer meetings and committee meetings. The fundraising process has been intense, and the 45 applications to foundations took a huge amount of work. We were able to complete the fifth assignment for our MA studies and do the bulk of the sixth and final assignment before our dissertation/thesis. (This is scheduled to begin in June/July) Apart from that, God has been using us in a number of counselling situations, and we have been working with 4 couples and about 11 individuals. It has been good, but tiring. In the midst of all that, however, we continue to really enjoy our house. It is a tremendous blessing, for which we are very grateful. The boys also love it, and they are both doing very well at school.



Pray that we would be able to maintain a good rhythm of life that enables us balance our commitments and have time to rest.

HOME ASSIGNMENT

On a different note, we have had to change our next home assignment dates. We were programmed to go to the UK from May until August of 2011, but this would be just when we are planning on opening. So, we have switched our time in the UK to November this year until January 2011. We will have the bulk of our team in place to oversee the construction process, and so this will be the best time to go without causing major disruption. We are excited about the new plans and the possibility of spending Christmas and New Year with family and friends in the UK ☺.