

El Alfarero

STUDENT CENTRE
BOLIVIA



“Moulding Lives”
Since 2001

COUNSELLING, CAFÉ, GAMES
PREGNANCY CRISIS CENTRE

QUARTERLY REPORT
THIRD QUARTER 2009

www.alfarero.org

SLOW PROGRESS

It really is quite amazing how long things can take here. After the miraculous purchase of the land for the new El Alfarero, Santa Cruz project on July 6th, it has been another lesson in patience as we wait for the various steps of registering the purchase to take their course. Things are definitely taking a lot longer than we would like, but at the same time, there have been some exciting things happening, and we can see how the Lord is weaving the various strands of the process together.

STAFF TEAM PROGRESS

One of the most exciting developments during the third quarter has been the way the Lord is drawing His chosen people into the project.

- Samuel and Ellie – Samuel is a trained chef from La Paz, and Ellie (the daughter of some of our missionary colleagues in La Paz) is a trained Christian Counselor. Samuel has, for some time, been wanting to combine his profession with ministry, and but had almost given up on that hope, as he couldn't see a way to do it. However, having had them to stay for a weekend, and talked about the possibilities, we are convinced that Alfarero would provide Samuel with the perfect opportunity to realize his dream. They are praying about joining us mid-2010, and helping us in the preparation for opening. Samuel, in the role of 'Executive Chef', would oversee the preparations for the events rooms, the menus, the café and the kitchens. He would bring real quality to that area of the project. Ellie would be a great addition in terms of the area of counseling. They are still praying

about their response. They are planning to make a final decision in November.

- Luke and Priscilla – at this time Priscilla is working as short-term missionary coordinator with SIM, and Luke is working as International Personnel Coordinator with Food for the Hungry International, both in Lima, Peru. They have recently married and are looking for a change in ministry, and the opportunity to work together. Having visited us for a week, including a trip to see the Alfarero project in Sucre, they have decided that they will be joining us – planned for mid-2010. Right now, they are beginning their preparations to join SIM Bolivia, and take a 6 month home assignment. They will be focusing on the areas of Mentoring and Discipleship with project staff and volunteers, as well as being involved in the administration of the project.

- Lyndsay Collins – several years ago, Lyndsay's parents visited us in Alfarero, Sucre, and then went back to Ecuador to open the Café Sendero in Loja. Lyndsay has great experience being involved in the café there, and has for some time now, been sensing a call to come and work with us in Alfarero, Santa Cruz. She is pushing the doors at this time, with a view to joining us mid-2010.

It is really encouraging to see how God is bringing all these people to the project, and the way the staff team is already forming.

Please do pray for all of these people, as they pray and prepare to join El Alfarero, Santa Cruz next year.



El Alfarero

“Moulding Lives”

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

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

Quarterly Report written by:
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BUILDING PROGRESS

We are really pleased with the new building plans. We dreamed ‘big’, as we prepared plans for a building to house a café for a hundred people, three kitchens, a library, a child-care centre, a refuge for young women, a counseling centre, a pregnancy-crisis centre, 8 offices (including space for several partner ministries), two smaller meeting rooms, one medium-sized meeting room for 60 people, and one large conference room for 300 people. The initial costing for the building came in at \$900,000 US, which is 50% more than budget. However, working carefully with our Christian architect, Hebert, we managed to bring the cost down to almost exactly on budget, without losing any of the above elements. (The main change was moving the underground parking area to the front of the building on ground level, which was a huge saving.) We now have the initial pre-approval from the planning office, and the complete plans are being submitted for full approval. At the same time, we are appointing an independent engineer, to oversee the whole construction process, especially ensuring the quality of the structure. And we have conducted a geological test on-site, to make sure that the building foundations, when they go in, will be adequate.

PROMOTIONAL DVD

We have been working on a promotional DVD, which will include a 3-D tour of the new building, and interviews with key partner ministry leaders, to excite and encourage potential donors. We hope to have this completed soon, and launch a fundraising campaign with it. In September, we received a donation of \$100,000 US to enable us to begin construction. Praise God.

COUNSELING PROGRESS

In September, Joanne Langford (our fellow Alfarero Director, in charge of Counseling Ministries) came to Santa Cruz and taught an intensive Biblical Counselling course. On the back of that, we received applications to begin our two-year counseling training course, and, after interview, accepted 26 people on to the course. We teach the course fortnightly, and so far, it is going very well.

NEW WEB SITE

You may not be aware that we have been able to re-vamp the www.alfarero.org website recently. Please check it out.

EL ALFARERO - SUCRE

The leaders in Sucre have been doing well, although, as we approach the end of the year, they are tired and feeling the strain. They have been dealing with some very heavy counseling situations, including several referred to them by local authorities. They have also been able to host some recent conferences, including about sex and relationships, and dealing with abuse.



Please pray for the Sucre project as they cope with tiredness and economic pressures.

PERSONAL STUFF

We were able to enjoy our visit to the UK in July, including attending the summer school of our MA course. It was great to see friends and family, albeit briefly. Right now, we are in the final stages of finishing the construction of our new house, and we are excited about moving in to it soon.



Praise God for his many blessings on our lives. Please pray for energy and perseverance as we serve Him here.