



Monday, July 6, 2009

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Nanci helps Ronualdo, Alejandro, Mauricio, Willi, Maria, and Carmelita with homework, a familiar kind of scene on our porch these days.

RECENT NEWS

The Bridge goes into morning. Ever hear of “A whack upside the head?” Here’s a very personal case study. Here’s our basic trip schedule and four appearances where it’s possible to meet you and say “Hi!” An absolutely great read – “Three Cups Of Tea” – get it and read it! Back in business after the “event”.

A BRIDGE IN MORNING

Mornings have assumed a different character at The Bridge. We’ve started providing “a little something” for breakfast for the Bridge Kids who come through here on the way to school. Their Special Ed teacher said they can concentrate better with their bellies full.

Starting in the morning, there are other activities at The Bridge. Homework assistance is given whenever it’s needed. There’s English, of course – the kids all are all required to learn English. Nanci’s been available for that and other subjects requiring a good knowledge of Spanish. Barry’s just started to get involved with math. Then there are those wonderful volunteers who just show up and start helping with homework. Thank you!

With kids on the porch, other things happen.

Yesterday morning little Maria was sitting in front of a computerized teaching game that required her to assemble all the ingredients and build a castle. The more involved the castle, the more of various materials were required. She’s doing beautifully at it, even though the program is giving intricate and complicated instructions in English.

Then there’s those educational software games – Kid Pix® Studio Deluxe, Mathematicas, Reader Rabbit®, Thinkin’ Science®, JumpStart Preschool Deluxe. The kids spend a lot of time in these.

Just the other day, Mauricio began learning to use a sewing machine, and then Nanci showed him how to bake a birthday cake – in the little toaster oven – with four other little kids sitting on the dining room table peering over the counter watching. Birthdays happen here almost weekly.

So these days, when we say we're "In morning", we really mean it.

ANATOMY OF A WHACK

There I was, standing knee-deep in ocean water in the beautiful Caribbean Sea, completely lost in the sublime beauty of it all. My body was here and my mind was – not. I found myself in meditative contemplation, yet being suddenly drawn back into an awareness of my surroundings.

I looked toward the ocean.



"My, what a beautiful wave that is!" I remember saying, as I looked up at it while it was crashing down on me.

I repeated what I've done in other times – "tuck & roll" – get down to the bottom and curl up in a ball. I learned this strategy just doesn't work in shallow water. My right knee and right eye came into "intimate contact".

Later, while standing at the cash register at Buen Precio, I got some raised eyebrows from Arelis, our friendly bank teller, and Mildred, the store cashier. "What happened?", they said at almost the same moment, pointing to my swollen, split eyebrow and my ugly black eye. Treating it lightly, I made a fist, pretended to whack myself, and said "Nanci". The girls burst into laughter and started to talk very fast in Spanish.

I could tell from their reaction they gained new respect for my gentle little wife.

After a brief pause, I told them what really happened. They looked at each other, laughed again, and said "Sure", winking at each other. "No – really", I said... "a big wave!" They looked knowingly at each other, smiled, and nodded.

It looks like the black eye will heal before we go to the US.

TRIP SCHEDULE



We Leave Monday, July 13, and fly to Los Angeles, arriving at 12 mid arr LACSA flite 604
Tuesday, July 14, fly to San Diego, arriving at 7:15 AM United Airlines flite 320

Fly to Portland Thursday July 16, arrive Portland 4:03 PM American Air 7068

Fly to Portland to San Diego July 21, arrive 7066 arr 9:14 AM

Fly from San Diego at 9:06 Monday PM, Arrive in San Jose CR Tuesday 9:14 AM

We're also speaking at four church services while we're there:

- **San Diego Center for Spiritual Living**, Wed 15th 7 PM service
- **New Thought Ministries of Oregon**, Sun 19th morning service
- **Vision** – San Diego Wed 22nd 7 PM service
- **Om Spiritual Center** – Sun Jul 26th 10 AM service

THREE CUPS OF TEA

This is a really great book about Greg Mortenson, an American who decided he was going to give up mountain climbing as a career, and climb another kind of mountain. He was going to build schools and educate girls in Muslim Pakistan. This thrilling book dispels any doubts about the ability of one ordinary man to make a real difference. Filled with adventure, excitement, and hope, combined with moments of nail biting uncertainty, such as the hero sitting tied up, with a bag over his head, surrounded by men carrying automatic weapons. What happens? You'll just have to read the book!

One of the volunteer groups we've met and will be working with requires that each new volunteer read this book.

Get a copy and read it yourself. It's a wonderful, inspiring tribute to what is really possible when people set their minds and hearts on a goal. .

RECOVERING JUST FINE, THANKS!

We've received a wonderful donation of a laptop – thank you so much! That's allowed us to restore just about all of the operating files we use. The last piece is expected to fall into place this week as we get the source file for the website updated, and add some new information to the site. We'll be using it to produce the extra brochures and greeting cards we'll need for our upcoming trip to the USA. And, we're still not able to show movies on the porch. We're working on it.

We're still in the market for a digital camera!

The smaller laptop has reverted to it's use primarily as a learning tool for the Bridge Kids.

While we're in the US, we plan to visit the used computer dealer who sold us the original two laptops that have done such a great job for us for over 5 years in the rainforest climate, and with a very badly behaved electricity system. Excellent used computers can be purchased there for \$400 - \$800. That should allow us to get Nanci set up again with her own computer for her writing and art projects.

You can find them and see the computers available at www.sdiego.com

EACH ONE TELL ONE

You can really help us help The Bridge Kids and the families who come here. It won't cost you anything. Think of one person you know that you think would like to hear about The Bridge, and forward this email to them!

That's all you need to do!

Thank you!

YOU CAN HELP US!

There's another way you can help.

- **Post a message about us on social networking sites or discussion boards** dealing with adventure, travel, volunteering, education, microlending, human services, eliminating poverty, or other humanitarian activities.

VIEW FROM THE BRIDGE

**We're grateful at the continuing support we have been getting.
You all are allowing us to continue to serve!**

NOW's a GREAT time to contribute.

Make a **Monthly Pledge** by [clicking here](#).

Make an immediate donation online by [clicking here](#),
where you can use a **credit card** or an **E-Check**.

Or, mail a check made out to "El Puente" with "**Member 29409704**"
in the Memo Field to
USE Credit Union, 8697 La Mesa Blvd, La Mesa, CA 91941
Deductions are tax-deductible
(And please drop us an email letting us know you've done it
so we can say a proper "Thank You!")

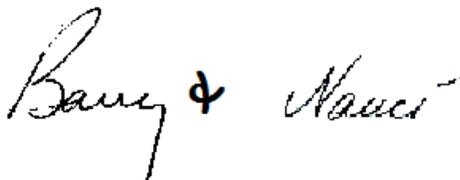
Do it NOW! You'll be glad you did!

Thank you for your support!

Well,

...djmiache

Enjoy!



IF YOU HAVE TROUBLE SEEING THE PICTURES

...go to www.elpuente-thebridge.org/weekly and download the file with the date of this issue.

Go to The **Bridge Website** by [CLICKING HERE](#)
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Go to the **newsletter archive** by [CLICKING HERE](#)

See some **Video clips** showing activities at The Bridge by [CLICKING HERE](#)

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