



March 19, 2010
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Sloth buddies at the Jaguar Animal Rescue Center in nearby Cocles, where Nanci visited recently to learn what it's all about.

RECENT NEWS

Playing wonders – from the jungle to the shore. Irene does tarea – homework, and Nanci helps. A Life Planning Seminar in the jungle. Nanci does rehab after a successor to McNugget is born. Response to many questions – “How can I help?”

PLAYING WONDERS

It was dark outside. Nanci and I were having supper on the porch, and preparing to close up for the night. Then, from out of the dark, we heard a voice...



Erik, in a casual shot at The Bridge

"Necessita galletas" Erick, one of the always hungry Bridge Kids, saying "I need crackers", which we gave him.

He continued to hang out, obviously with something else to say, yet holding back. Nanci asked "what's up?" He broke into a grin and said "We won!" "Won what?" we asked. "Soccer. We all made a team, and we won!" He was excited now. As the story unfolded, we learned that boys from three families and two clans had gotten together in an ad-hoc game. They played a team of "others" on the beach, and "they won!!!"

Relations among these folks had been strained at best, sometimes leading to anger, or more, up in the jungle. The families of those boys all come to The Bridge, where the walls of mutual animosity between families and clans have been slowly eroding. These children, playing together and forging friendships, are working wonders - no, they're playing wonders- by creating peaceful relationships!

They won!

Indeed they did - more than a soccer game!

IRENE DOES TAREA

Mornings can be fun around here. One morning this week, Irene stopped by – at about 6 AM, saying she had lots of tarea - homework. So Nanci popped out of bed, and started working with her while I prepared crackers and hot chocolate, sustenance for what looked like a long siege.



Irene listens intently as Nanci helps her with estudios sociales.

Before the session was finished, they had covered three different subjects. By about 10 AM, (I suspect they were both a bit dazed,) Irene went on her way for the day.

A pleasant observation. "She's reading very well!"

Yay! Thank you folks!

A LIFE PLANNING SEMINAR

Some of you may know that I authored "The Life Planning Workbook". This book has been used to help people define and describe the life they intend to live, their life as it is now, and write a plan (in pencil) for what needs to be done to get to that intended life. I've felt some real Joy over the years while going through this process with people, as I've watched them put on wings and soar.

Recently, we've had the honor to meet Dr. Christine Bradley, MD. She's an experienced counselor, and is jazzed about holding Life Planning Seminars for college age youth here in Costa Rica. Her equally talented mom, Sharon St. James, is an experienced yoga and meditation instructor, and will add tools that are great for reducing stress and improving focus and clarity. We will be adding other great tools to the mix – such as Michael Beckwith's Visioning process – just how do you envision the life of your dreams? We will be offering wonderful motivating movies in the evening, and when time allows, a dip in the beautiful turquoise waters of the Caribbean, or maybe a hike in the jungle. How much better can it get? Christine, Sharon, and are really excited about the seminar series, and it starts here in July!

Those of you interested in more information, see the seminar on a temporary web page at www.elpuente-thebridge.org/life_plan
See the Life Planning Workbook at www.lulu.com/content/677171

If you know any college-age folks who might be interested, feel free to send them to the web page, or write me directly – [send me an email by clicking on this link!](#)

Why would I add all this to the mix of things I'm already doing? From one viewpoint, its super watching attendees fly. On a more practical side, though, I'll be bringing in some cash I'll feel free to use for infrastructure items, beginning with some very badly needed dental work – without tapping into donated funds.

CHICKEN SCRATCHINGS

Nanci the Rehabber is at it again. When one of the new baby chicks turned out to have far more than the regulation number of toes (11, to be exact, where 8 is recommended), she decided to see if she could get the fledgling rooster (yes, another rooster) to where he could walk around, eat bugs, and in general make itself useful around here. So, as with McNugget when he came around years ago, he's starting to make himself at home. We call him Corky, because his head is screwed on sideways. When he runs he has a tendency to run around in circles. Cute, but not practical.



Corky and Nanci enjoy "chicken time" together

He's a pretty scraggly little thing right now, but we're seeing feathers coming in all over. He's definitely growing. Too big now to be interesting to the hawks. But still not potty trained, we've started putting him outside to chase down some bugs, a vital part of his diet. He seems to be coming along just fine.

In the past, I've said this about roosters – "When he crows, he goes"! That's because the chicken coops are right outside the bedroom window, and the local guy-birds start crowing at 2 and 3:30 in the morning. We may have learned a way to deal with that. On a visit with Peter at his bicycle shop in town, we let Corky loose to 'run the place'. A couple visiting from France asked about him, and we learned that they were chicken farmers back home. I mentioned my rule – you know – "when he crows..." The chicken farmer said that a rooster has to stand up straight, rise as far as he can on his toes, extend his neck way over his body, arch his neck, and then – he can crow. The French man suggested having Corky sleep in a confined space with a low ceiling – then, he can't crow until let out in the morning at a respectable 'chicken thirty'. I like the idea.

We're also curious about the sounds a rooster might make whose neck is screwed on sideways. Can't wait to see (and hear) how all this works out!

QUESTIONS WE OFTEN HEAR

We're often asked, "How can I help?" There are SO MANY ways! Here's a compact list of the ways you can help The Bridge put children in school and keep them there:

1. [Make a donation or a monthly pledge](#) – probably the most obvious and easiest to implement;
2. If you're traveling down here, [find out what you can bring](#) to add to the materials we donate to students and schools;
3. Purchase items that benefit The Bridge with every sale:
 - a. Buy Nanci's numbered and signed scratchboard lithographed fine art prints – magnificent work available online through the Art Exchange website at www.art-exchange.com, search for "Nanci Wright"
 - b. [Go to The Bridge Online Store](#) and browse around for other great items you can buy –
 - greeting cards and prints based on Nanci's art,
 - Barry's book "Driving Skills Analysis" – Helping your favorite senior driver drive safer, longer,;
 - Nanci's book on "How To Do Scratchboard" - learn about a rare and spectacular art medium;
 - Barry's "Life Planning Workbook" - help someone you love (including yourself) build the life of their dreams!
 - Entertaining and informative DVDs, to expand your world.
4. **Add the El Puente - The Bridge toolbar to IE or Firefox.** Once you add the El Puente - The Bridge toolbar for IE or Firefox, as you shop at one of the more than 1,300 participating stores, a percentage of what you spend will be donated to us at no extra cost to you! (you could even save money as the toolbar provides coupons and deals). The toolbar also has a search box and each time you search the Internet, about a penny is donated to us. No registration is required! Click Here to get started: <http://www.goodsearch.com/toolbar/el-puente-the-bridge>.

HELP WANTED

Lawyer Needed – we're still looking for a lawyer to help set up a very special funding operation in the US to raise money for projects such as a medical clinic, schoolhouse, water and septic systems, and microbusinesses to "help people help themselves to self sufficiency". For information, [click here to send me an email](#).

Repair Projects At The Bridge – a number of repair projects are needed right here at The Bridge. If you're traveling here, and are looking for something to do, a little exercise, some outdoor work... [drop me an email and we can talk about your skills and how they would fit in!](#).

Computer work you can do from home – indexing the 2009 newsletter issues, tracking down email addresses for newspaper press releases in the US, Canada, and Europe, as well as email addresses for college student newspapers. [Click here and we can talk about projects by email.](#),

DONOR NOTES

Thank You For All You Are Doing – as usual, we say "Thank You" to our donors – you are really the ones that enable everything in this newsletter. Without you, we wouldn't be putting 49 children in school this year! **Thank You!**

Monthly Pledgers – We are now at 17 Monthly Pledgers totaling \$370 each month! Yippee! Why did they sign up? [See for yourself – read five of their answers to that question by clicking here](#). It's easy for you to sign up. [Go here to find out how to make a Monthly Pledge](#).

RANDOM NOTES

Residency in process - We've finally been notified that our residency applications for Costa Rica are, officially, "en tramite" – in process. Yoohooo! For quite some time, the location of my certified, doubly authenticated birth certificate was a mystery. The problem was solved when the Washington DC Consulate found the missing document – logged in under our attorney's name instead of mine. In practical terms, this means that we are not required to leave the country every 90 days to renew the visa on our passport. We may still choose to go – to get some rest together – but it's not required. Progress everywhere.

YOU CAN HELP!

There are many ways you can help.

- **Send this email to people you know** who might also enjoy it.
- **Post a message about us on relevant web sites or discussion boards.**
- **Look at our list of critically needed supplies** – [click on this link to get to the "What Can I Bring?" page on our website.](#)

VIEW FROM THE BRIDGE

**Thank You for 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** by [clicking here](#),
and donate online using PayPal, or mail a check.

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

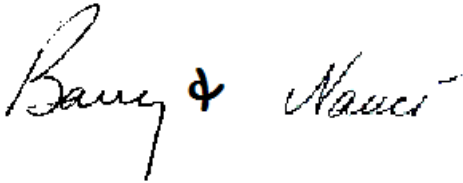
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Thank you for your support!

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 Blog** -"Angels With Their Skins On" by [CLICKING HERE](#)

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

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