

Desert Blooms
December 2007

Dear Sisters and Friends,

This is the season for reflecting upon a special mother and her Special Baby. Two of our special mothers with children who are “extra-special” have given birth again in the past month. We waited, wondered and worried with them during their pregnancies but now both new babies have arrived.

Gloria Delia was shocked to discover that she was pregnant last spring because she had a tubal ligation in February. She has one daughter who is learning disabled and another, Irlanda, who had severe jaundice at birth and as a result has cerebral palsy. We helped Gloria see a specialist for prenatal care but even with the best available, the new baby was born with jaundice and required intensive care. We were all on pins and needles but after a very rocky start it appears that the baby will be okay. We’ll be monitoring her development closely.

Maria Eugenia accepted the news of her pregnancy with tranquility. Her precocious daughter Leslie, age 4, flies around the clinic like greased lightning. Ricardo at 17 months weighs about 12 pounds and hardly makes a sound. Most of the time he is content to suck on his pacifier and lay in the bean-bag chair. Mari went almost two weeks past her expected date of delivery but after several false alarms, she delivered baby Jesus without complications. In fact, she brought all three children to the clinic the very next day! That gives you an idea of the resilience of these special mothers- and of how much they enjoy being at the clinic!

Last Friday we arranged a workshop day for our “grupo de apoyo”, the team of mothers who basically run the clinic. In the morning Gloria Morales from the El Paso clinic gave a class on nutrition, especially on “counting carbs”. She is an entertaining presenter and the women (and one dad!) really enjoyed the information. When the session finished and they went into the other room for lunch they found an elegant Christmas banquet! Siba had prepared lasagna, dinner rolls, salad and two kinds of cake for dessert. (So much for counting carbs!) The ambiance was lovely: Christmas lights and tablecloth, soft music, a centerpiece with tiny ornaments, dishes of pistachios for an appetizer, and gift bags at each place. Carol and Siba served them at the table while they oohed and ahhed over the contents of their Christmas bags: scented massage oil, hand cream, fragrant soaps, incense, and a cd of relaxing music. Sophia offered the blessing before the meal and there wasn’t a dry eye in the house. After lunch Carol’s class on hot rock therapy and “cupping” turned into an afternoon at “spa-Anapra”! Everyone received a treatment! It is wonderful to be able to lavish simple but beautiful gifts on these special mothers who give such extravagant love to their children. They are images of the Madonna and Child for us this season.