



Meet Princess Nina. Nina has been a part of Hope for the Nations since she was born. Its an understatement to say that her life has not been easy. It always seemed that no matter what we tried to do to help her and her family, we could not get her on the right track. I can remember a time when one of our medical interns stayed up the whole night, force-feeding Nina in order to keep her alive. Weeks later, Nina's health was deteriorating and we needed to intervene again. This was the pattern for many years.

To the point of desperation:

In June of last year, Nina's health reached a new low. She was very sick, very weak and even lacked the strength to walk. Her legs were no longer straight and she was very skinny. Doctors told us that she was malnourished and had rickets. Our leadership team met in order to decide if there was anything that we could do. We decided to take a more drastic approach. We proposed to admit Nina to Living Stones Orphanage (a local Christian orphanage that we have connections with). Their nurses could provide total care and medicine and food could be given to Nina on a very regimented basis. Thankfully, Living Stones accepted her.

Real progress:

Nina was at Living Stones from June of last year until March of 2010. She had some serious ups and downs, but she was able to receive excellent care and has seen many specialists who were able to diagnose what was actually going on.

Basically, due to a certain condition in her kidneys, she was unable to absorb certain nutrients, making her extremely susceptible to disease, malnutrition and rickets. This is what lead to the calcium deficiency in her system and what caused her legs to be so badly deformed.

Through vitamin supplements, medication and a regimented diet, we are excited to say that during her time at the Orphanage Nina gained almost 2 kilos! She went in at about 9 kilos and was 10.9 at the end of March. On top of this weight gain she is now running around and playing like a 4 year old should be. It is so good to see the improvements. I believe that by getting to the root of the problem, we were really able to make a difference in her life.

A long way to go:

In March, Nina moved back home with her parents. This was due to the fact that the funding that we had to help Nina had run out. Although she has made huge improvements, we feel that she still needs another 6-months of "intensive" care in order to give her a foundation for continued restoration and healing and give her the best chance for the future. Doctors still want to give Nina braces to help straighten her legs after a few more months of building up her general health with healthy, nutritious foods and vitamins. The most effective way for this to happen is for her to be admitted to the Orphanage again.

A need for support for 6 months:

We have been with Nina for a long time and we want to see her overcome. To make this happen we are looking for people to commit to supporting Nina for 6 months either financially or through prayer. Realistically, in order to make this happen, we will need support of about \$150 (CAD) per month for a six month period. I realize that this is a lot, but if God is speaking to you and you would like to be involved, please contact me at dawicks@gmail.com. Your donation will go towards giving giving someone the chance at life that they deserve.

If we are able to get Nina into Living Stones for an additional six months and you would like to be informed of her progress so you can pray more effectively, please let me know as well.

God bless!



Nina. Day one at Living Stones.



Nina with her new "family" at Living Stones.



I was able to visit Nina at the orphanage in February. She looked a lot better!



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