

ACTION

Hi-Tech in the Jungle **Rick and Sharon LaBouef**

CinA missionaries in Shell, Ecuador

The other day I flew a national worker and an indigenous pastor to a remote area. When we landed in the village, the two men needed to talk to the leaders. I sat down on the tire of the airplane in the shade of the wing and began cranking my MP3 player, brought to the jungle by a young missionary couple from Mexico. This handy player has lots of memory and the Gospel can be downloaded in almost any language on earth! I've been using one almost nonstop. You crank the 4x6 inch machine for one minute and it will play with great quality and volume for about five minutes...then you just turn the handle again.



All the children gathered as close as they possibly could to hear the Gospel stories, with the shortest kids in front and bigger ones in back. Their ears drank in the stories coming out of the “talking box,” but their little jet black eyes were riveted on me. I smiled while surveying and resurveying the group as they pressed in closer and closer. Finally, one little boy built up enough courage to feel the hair on my right arm and then began to pull. OUCH!! That emboldened another one on my left side to start touching my beard. Then laughter erupted. I thought to myself, “With all this body hair, they must think I’m something between a human and a balding albino monkey!” Don’t laugh.... Just imagine what they’d think if they saw YOU!



Shell Christian Preschool is such a blessing to me, Sharon, and hopefully to the 11 little ones I minister to three mornings each week. This month I'd like to tell you about one little girl who is quite an inspiration to me. Grace is a six year old from a Shuar town that can only be reached by air. She had spinal meningitis when she was about three. When she arrived at "Casa de Fe" about eight months ago, she was totally paralyzed on her left side. She could only mobilize herself by scooting with the other leg. Grace has other deformities as well, such as missing fingers.



Grace (left) is ready to help her friend, Rubi, eat her birthday cake
Her parents left her at the orphanage because they felt totally helpless to meet her many needs. Ever since Grace arrived, she has had the blessing of physical therapy five-times a week and she is now able to walk and sometimes even run without anyone or anything helping her. The special part that I want to share about Grace is her incredibly positive attitude. She falls many times during the morning at preschool. Each time she falls, she gets up without any help and has a smile on her precious face from ear to ear. Wow, it puts me to shame! "Lord, please help me to **get up** smiling and trusting You." God bless you and may He help you in whatever trial you may be going through, to **get up** smiling and praising Him, just like little Grace.
