



Week Seven: Hospital San Lorenzo

By Megan Simpkins | February 28, 2011

This was my second week at Hospital San Lorenzo.



A little boy and his mother in the Pediatric consultorio. If you notice, he is wearing girls' shoes.



Two nurses. The one that I spend more time with is on the right.

ESQUEMA DE VACUNACIÓN DE LA NIÑA
(Anotar fecha de aplicación de la vacuna)

BCG: Dosis única		Recién nacida		
		10-02-10		
Antipolio				
1ª Dosis (2 meses)	2ª Dosis (4 meses)	3ª Dosis (6 meses)		
12-04-10	21-05-10			
Pentavalente				
1ª Dosis (2 meses)	2ª Dosis (4 meses)	3ª Dosis (6 meses)		
12-04-10	21-05-10			
Antirotavirus				
1ª Dosis (2 meses)	2ª Dosis (4 meses)	3ª Dosis (6 meses)		
12-04-10	21-05-10			
Antimariólica: Dosis única		SRP: Dosis única		
(12 a 23 meses)		(12 a 23 meses)		
Otras:				
SUPLEMENTACION CON MICRONUTRIENTES				
Vitamina "A"	Or 120.000 U.I.	Or 250.000 U.I.		
	6 a 11 meses	1 año	2 años	3 años

Here is a typical "carnet", identification pamphlet, for a child (a little girl in this case). BCG (Tuberculosis) for the "recien nacido", or recently born. Antipolio, exactly as it looks: anti - polio, for two, four, and six months, given orally. "Pentavalente" is a vaccination that has five components: Diphtheria, Tetanus, Pertussis, Influenza, and Hepatitis B, for two, for, and six months, given intramuscularly. A new vaccination added to the carnet is Antirotavirus (a type of virus that causes severe diarrhea), also for the two, four, and six months, given orally. Next is Antimariólica, or anti-malarial, and SRP (MMR, Measles, Mumps, and Rubella), both given between 12 and 23 months subcutaneously--given below the layer of skin directly below the dermis and epidermis. Below that are the supplement instructions. One year old children receive both iron and vitamin A supplements.

Everything that I did was very similar to last week, except this week I went to "el campo", the country, with a doctor, a nurse, and a dentist, to give care to a community of people living about 30 minutes outside of San Lorenzo (one hour outside of Tarija). We left at about 8:30am and did not get home until about 5:15pm.



The truck/ambulance in the background is what we took and the driver is in the middle here.



Here is Dr. Juan Carlos.



The driver and the dentist, Valeria.



This is after we had arrived. The Dr. rode in the back, along with the nurse that we picked up on the way.



Just before we began.



Another shot of the truck/ambulance.



Dr. Juan Carlos, Valeria, and the nurse.



Entering the classroom that we used to treat people.



One of the men of the community in the classroom.



Political map of Bolivia. I was in the orange section, close to the big blue lake, and now I am in the medium green section at the bottom. That is about a 17 hour bus ride, and 2 hour--with layover--flight.



The dentist's tools.



She only had one set of utensils, so she had to sanitize them after every single patient.



All of the children were peeking at us some way or another.



More peekers.



All of the little kids here were so cute.



Juan Carlos got a fluoride treatment just for fun.



His first patient.



Another patient.



Here is Valeria, asking him if his teeth hurt.



The nurse is in the middle here. I gave the man on the left an injection with vitamins. The needle was so large that it made a puncturing sound when it hit the skin of his rear.



This is the nurse's "goodie box" with all of the medications that she gave out. Most of the people of the community are covered under SUMI and SUSAT, another type of free insurance. The ironic thing is that they think that health insurance in the US is free since we are a wealthier country. I explained to several people this week that this is not true, and that if I want to go to the doctor or need medication, even though I have insurance, I still have to pay money up-front. So here, with these types of insurance, the nurse was just handing out the medicine.



Break time: here is the toilet...



Part of the community's garden.



They offered us food, none of which I took part in eating as I know that it is VERY possible I would get sick here. Boiled potatoes, onions with spicy peppers, and cheese.



It did smell VERY good. By the way, here in Bolivia and other surrounding countries there is something like 400 different types of potatoes. I am told that they all taste differently and many choose which ones they want to cook with

because some are better for boiling, mashing, frying, etc.

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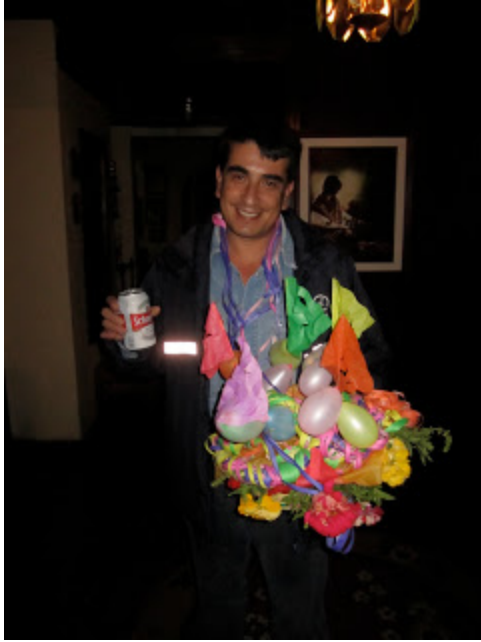
Back on the home-front, I have been having a great week! I really, really like my host family! This week was a special week because Thursday was Día de Compadres, or Day of Guy Friends.



My host mom, Carla, made a compadre out of her boss. So I asked her how you do that and...



...I made a compadre out of my host dad, Javier!



He was very surprised.



I met him at the door with his basket of colorful tissue paper, flowers, sweet bread, candies, balloons, and flags, with a beer--as that is customary. I threw the decorations around his neck, said "Feliz Día de Compadres", opened his beer, took a sip, and handed it to him. There you have it! He is forever my compadre! They say that this coming week has Día de Comadres, and if he accepts me, he should do the same thing for me, but I will not hold it to him .



It turns out that Javier really likes making sandwiches out of the bread, so it worked out well! This was a fun night. I do have a video of it but I don't have fast enough internet to upload it.

I have to say that it has been interesting being the only participant on the program because I am used to having someone, close to my age that speaks English, there to spend time with. I definitely miss Elaina, Kathryn, and Angela!! I hope they are all doing well back home and in Canada. My host family has been VERY good at integrating me as part of the family. Last night Carla and I went about 20 minutes across town to visit her cousin and family. I had a great time! I even met a niece of hers that is close to my age and is going to take me out this Thursday for Día de Comadres. We all had a great time chatting and laughing. I did not bring my camera but was able to meet their pet monkey which looks very similar to these:



I also got to see three more parrots, two looking exactly like this and another green one.



They were also making a point to teach me palabras Tarijeñas, (Tarija Spanish words), so I have made a list:

Chancho - cerdo/puerco - pork

Che - Oye - Hey

Chinchi - antipático - not nice (person)

Choclo - maíz - corn

Cholero - mujeriego - ladies man

Churkis - planta espinosa - type of plant with thorns

Churo - lindo/bonito - cute/beautiful

Macana - pena/triste - sad

Pipocas - palomitas - popcorn

Another thing to mention is that I started my Spanish classes this week. They are going to be similar to my classes in La Paz, as they are not equipped to handle people of my level of Spanish. Usually Biology and Human Physiology-- Pre-med--students go on these internships, so I am one of very few that actually speak Spanish. They have beginners books, but I am far too beyond that to really get anything out of it. So, I will have to do a lot of research on my own here, which is fine, and I get great experience just chatting with the doctors that I have met. I have also been very happy to be alongside some of the nurses as they are letting me be very hands-on, for example with vaccinations, and have been very encouraging. I am not sure where I am going tomorrow, but I hope I find people just as nice there.



To read more from Megan, visit her blog at <http://megansimpkins.blogspot.com/>