



# Lar Feliz USA



December 2011

## SAVE THE DATE

The annual Lar Feliz dinner will be held on March 31 at the Green Campus of Parkside Church. For details, go to: [www.larfelizusa.com](http://www.larfelizusa.com)

## PLEASE GIVE US YOUR EMAIL ADDRESS

The Lar Feliz USA Foundation website has recently been revised to make it easier for us to communicate with you, and for you to communicate with us. It would be a great help to us if you would provide your email address for us on any page of our website. This will help us cut mailing costs and enable us to provide you with more frequent updates on our missionary family and Lar Feliz. Please sign up for our mailing list today at [www.larfelizusa.com](http://www.larfelizusa.com).

Please visit the Lar Feliz USA Foundation website at [www.larfelizusa.com](http://www.larfelizusa.com)

## What's New With Our Missionary Family

### 2011 has been a challenging year for the van Opstal family.

Providing care for about 70 very needy children at Lar Feliz is difficult enough without some of the challenges faced by family members. Jill and her extended family are still recovering from the tragic loss of her brother in May. Paul's missionary sister Joke was forced to return from Cambodia to Holland earlier this year because of heart problems. While in Holland, doctors discovered she also had breast cancer. Her recovery was going very well until an infection developed that will set her recovery back at least six months. Anna is one of Joke's six adopted children, and complications from a cancerous tumor resulted in her lapsing into a life-threatening coma. After weeks of not knowing whether Anna would survive, God awakened her and gave her the strength to receive cancer treatments. Paul says doctors are amazed at the recovery of Joke and Anna.

Neither has required chemotherapy. Being so far from their families makes it more difficult for Jill and Paul. Since it has been three years since they last visited Holland, they are planning a visit January first.



Paul, Elisa, Jeremy and Jill

Elisa graduates from high school this month and has been accepted to Cedarville University where she hopes to study biology and pre-veterinarian. She is singing in a youth band that visits different companies and churches with music and the good news of Jesus. The band is called Adoracao sem limites, which means Adoration without limits.

Jeremy will be in 11<sup>th</sup> grade when the new school year starts in January. He enjoys sports

at school and is also involved in learning musical instruments. He's also a computer wiz, and hopes to study further one day in graphic design.

### Update on Lar Feliz Kids

Paul frequently describes the special things that happen at Lar Feliz as evidence that God is on the move. Jill and Paul and everyone else at Lar Feliz have been excited to see the recent spiritual awakening in so many of the Lar Feliz teens. The first signs appeared when a local church nearby involved them in some spiritual retreats. Teens are now showing additional signs that God has becoming important in their lives by getting along with each other in their homes and doing better in school. The youth are very active at church, leading the worship and prayer times. Weekly Bible studies are taking place at the project. Some teens are showing signs that they are truly trying to live for Christ by loving their neighbor. They have formed the Adoracao Sem Limites band, with the leadership of Dinilo, and Jill, and are visiting local churches and businesses.

The spiritual awakening among the teens is impacting the younger children. They can see the change in the teens in how they treat them with more love and kindness. Several Lar Feliz children have recently been recognized as the outstanding students in their schools.

## A TRIBUTE TO THE LIFE OF VANCE CSASZAR

*Rena and I were serving as Missions Board Coordinators for a church when we met Vance Csaszar. When introduced, we were asked to call him "Uncle Vance". He frequently demonstrated his love for missionaries in the field with financial support and involvement with mission team activities. At one of our meetings, Rena and I were on fire describing what Paul and Jill van Opstal were doing with abused and abandoned children in Brazil. Vance stayed after that meeting to learn more about Lar Feliz. Rena can't speak of Lar Feliz without tears coming to her eyes, and it was no different that evening. Vance was obviously touched when he heard how Lar Feliz was rescuing children by providing structure, love, and opportunities for children to learn about faith in Jesus. Vance loved to hear how Lar Feliz children were catching-up on their education, learning how to make music or dance, and develop other artistic abilities. He also heard how counselors, psychologists, and social workers were helping kids recover from deep wounds.*

*Uncle Vance supported our teen groups who went to Lar Feliz and for one trip he bought Crayolas for the children. Vance's thoughtful gift enabled our team to lead many activities during that visit, and then given to the art teacher who was excited to receive this much-needed supply. Uncle Vance had a huge heart and is greatly missed. He went to be with our Lord last year, but he remembered the needs of our Lar Feliz missionaries with a \$10,000 gift from his will. Paul shared that this was the exact amount needed to cover unpaid bills Vance knew nothing about. God is good and He is faithful. See you again someday Uncle Vance!*

*Contributed by  
Lon and Rena Hrionak.*



**Please visit the Lar Feliz USA  
Foundation website at  
[www.larfelizusa.com](http://www.larfelizusa.com)**

## Danilo's Story

My mom left soon after I was born because of constant fights with my dad. My dad drank too much and I've never even seen a picture of my mom. There were many fights at our home, including the one when my grandfather was stabbed to death right in front of me by my uncle.



Since our family was very poor, I was taken to a shelter where I stayed from the age of six to 12. I then went to live with my one of my sisters, but that didn't work out, so I was taken to another shelter for a year and started smoking at the age of 14. I couldn't get used to the defiant behavior of many drug-abusing boys and the fights that resulted, so I went to live with another sister. That didn't work because she lived very far my school and friends. I then went to live with another sister who was still a minor but already married. That ended the day her brother-in-law pointed a gun at us and demanded that we leave his family's house. I returned to my alcoholic dad for a short time, but his excessive drinking, often put us in dangerous situations. I was then taken to Lar Feliz.

At first, I didn't want to be at Lar Feliz. I cried and was disobedient. I stopped studying for school, and started getting depressed. I was given some medicine for depression, but my behavior just got worse. Pastor Paul tried to tell me that Jesus wanted to change my life, but I wasn't interested in anything other than getting out of Lar Feliz. My behavior kept getting worse and I became more aggressive and unconcerned for my life. My rebelliousness was having a negative impact on the other children, so I had to leave Lar Feliz.

I thought my life was over. I tried to kill myself, but was unsuccessful. I entered the world of drugs, and was placed in a shelter where they practiced spiritism. When I got tired of this, I remembered that Pastor Paul had told me there was Someone who wanted to change my life. I was allowed to return to Lar Feliz where I received love, affection, and

eventually an opportunity to work. It was there that I discovered I had a calling to save lives that pass through the same difficulties I had before turning to my Lord and Savior Jesus Christ who was lovingly presented to me at Lar Feliz. I feel certain that my journey will not only include Brazil, but the whole world, as was promised to me by the Lord. He is faithful.

Danilo is currently serving as a boy's monitor at Lar Feliz and is very thankful for his rescue. He is also looking at going back to school to further his career options for the future. We'll soon be adding more about Danilo's work with the kids at [www.larfelizusa.com](http://www.larfelizusa.com).

## HELP WANTED

*The Lar Feliz USA Foundation started in 2006 to raise awareness and support for Lar Feliz through a small board of volunteer directors. If you have a desire to make a difference in the lives of the children at Lar Feliz, we are currently looking for volunteers with any of the following experience: writing and editing, videography, graphic design, and photography. Please contact Warren Morrow at [warrenmorrow@aol.com](mailto:warrenmorrow@aol.com) or 330-962-6438 to find out how you might be able to help.*

## WHY YOUR SUPPORT IS SO IMPORTANT

*The devaluation of the U.S. dollar and the poor U.S. economy has greatly reduced support for the van Opstal's. Our dollar is worth about half of what it was when Lar Feliz opened, and some supporters have lost jobs that enabled them to help financially. God has obviously intervened, but if you're in a position to help, please consider sending a tax-deductible gift payable to the Lar Feliz USA Foundation at PO Box 26, Barberton, OH 44203. Please attach a note saying your gift is for Jill and Paul rather than the project. One supporter says, "We don't have to support the van Opstals . . . we get to."*