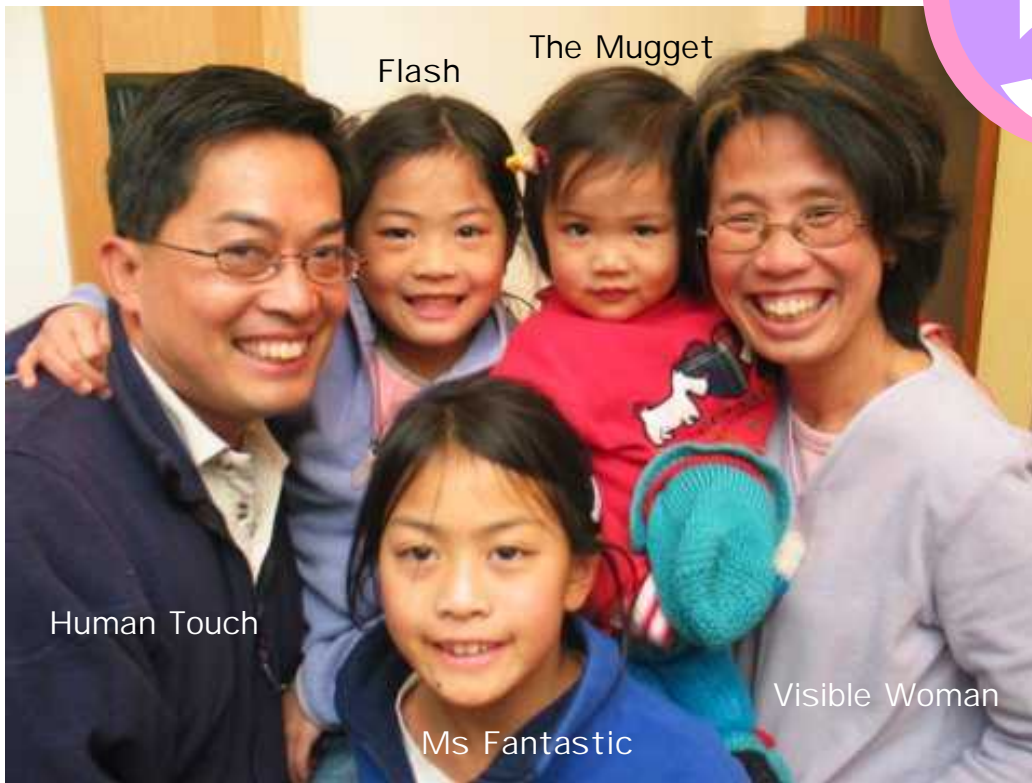


The making of the

TANFASTIC



Flash

The Mugglet

Human Touch

Visible Woman

Ms Fantastic

Come behind the scenes with the actors

Is it still Friday?

Human Touch and Visible Woman

We left Lawrence's mum's house in Sydney with high spirits and great excitement at 6 in the morning. Our bags were packed and weighed, and many kind friends had offered to drive us and our luggage to the airport. The check-in staff didn't blink an eyelid at the 300kg of books, clothes and project equipment we had and checked them through to Santa Cruz airport in Bolivia. Our family and friends prayed for us and tearfully sent us off at the departure gates. After a long flight to Bolivia via Auckland and Buenos Aires, we arrived in Cochabamba. Our 11 bags were all on the carousel; we were waved through the green gate with no queries about the expensive electronics all five of us had in our hand luggage; and were warmly welcomed on the other side by some SIM families who had come to pick us up at 10pm. The kids coped magnificently on the long trip but couldn't work out how it could be still Friday after travelling for 29 hours! We are so grateful to God and for all of you who prayed for smooth trip back to Bolivia.

My trip to Sucre

Ms Fantastic

The first Sunday after we came back to Bolivia, Daddy and I got on a bus to go to Sucre. The trip was 10 hours long. On the bus I listened to music and read my book until it got too bumpy. Then I ate Pringles with Daddy and went to

sleep. I liked the bus trip because it was bumpy and there were funny dips in the road. I woke up whenever the bus stopped for passengers. Once I saw a black pig with a yellow face and funny hair.

In Sucre, we went to the Bible Institute so Daddy could get the stuff we had stored there. I played with my friend Sammy and saw Boots! Boots is my dog that we left in Bolivia. She was very happy to see me. She went all quiet and wanted me to scratch her tummy.



After that we walked around town and saw Daddy's friends to tell them we're here. Then we went to get pizza to eat for dinner at the bus terminal. When we got on the bus, we were very tired and soon fell asleep. Daddy said that a Quechua lady slept on a blanket in the aisle right next to him.

When we arrived at Cochabamba, Daddy found that one of our bags had been stolen! We looked all over the bus and asked the bus driver but he said someone probably got off the bus with it. It had Daddy's medical stuff and Mummy's driver's license in it. It was a bit sad it went missing after

we went all the way to get it. Then we went home to have breakfast, then we moved to our new house in Vinto, that Maddie will tell you about.

Our New House

Flash

We live 30 minutes out of Cochabamba in a little town called Vinto. Some missionaries went to the

States for furlough and have lent us their house. Our house is nice. It has 4 bathrooms (two downstairs and two upstairs) and Daddy said that I have the best view in the house from my bedroom window! I can see mountains, cows, some houses, and lots of things. They have 2 cats and a dog. The cats' names are Achi & Tom and the dog's name is Boobbie. We get to borrow their car too. Sometimes Annie and I like to play Hide & Seek because it is a big house. Alex & I do chores (Alex burns the toilet paper & I throw compost in a hole), and we do it together.



Mummy's Jungle Birthday

The Muppet

Last week Daddy decided to take all of us to the lowlands for a holiday. We stayed in a small hotel in the jungle where there was a pool and lots of mozzies. We went swimming every day at the pool and at the water holes. We saw monkeys, parrots, a fox, a sloth and fruit bats. Alex saw a green snake. Mummy and Daddy spent a lot of time sleeping. We got to eat delicious wild boar and catfish for lunch on Mummy's birthday. We were only there for a few days and when we came back it was time to start school. Alex and Maddie are going to Carachipampa, the mission school. I had my first day in a Bolivian pre-kindy today. I cried a little when Mummy left me. The teachers are very nice. They only speak to me in Spanish but to me it sounds like Chinese. Mummy and Daddy started Quechua school today too. They said they had brain strain!

The Altitude Sinks.

Visible Woman

We've spent the first couple of weeks getting over jetlag, settling into the house we've been lent, getting my driver's licence and bank card replaced (this involved 6 half-days of queuing and patience with the bureaucracy), and trying to get our travel insurance to pay for the medical bag that had been stolen. It looks like they won't be too cooperative since much of the equipment was donated and Lawrence doesn't have any proof of ownership, but some friends

have already generously offered to help replace some of these items.

After a year in Sydney, I've very quickly forgotten how long it takes to just do normal tasks here. My time in the kitchen now consist of collecting jugs of filtered water, soaking vegetables and fruit in bleach, baking bread & boiling tough meat in the pressure cooker. Cooking takes heaps longer since the boiling point of water here is 92°C. I need to remember that at 2400m above sea level, I have to reduce sugar and add extra flour to my cake recipes, otherwise I'll end up with sunken cakes. It's great to be back!

First steps to Project Walkabout

Human Touch

Many of you will probably be wondering how the Tan Van plan (Project Walkabout) is going. I was able to re-connect with some helpful contacts during that short trip to Sucre. Even though Bolivia is fairly calm politically at the moment, things will be different after the elections in December. So one of my friends in the health department will be helping us write a contract with the health authorities that will authorise us to travel around the State of Chuquisaca to provide medical training and health care even after the government changes. My friend the bus mechanic is still willing to come to help buy and outfit a suitable bus, although this week together with a Bolivian Christian we will be visiting a factory where they build buses right here in Cochabamba to see if they are interested in building a mobile home instead. Best of all we now have a part-time research assistant! Alison Bain, an SIM missionary kid, has just finished High School in Bolivia and has 6 months spare before returning to start uni in Australia. She is spending a lot of time on the internet on our behalf, is pricing and purchasing locally-available items and has already started soldering low-energy LED lights for the van.

Prayer Points

- Thank the Lord for smooth travel and a warm welcome back to Bolivia
- Thank the Lord for providing replacements for the stolen medical equipment
- Pray for the kids and Lawrence and Liling as they spend the next four months studying in American, Spanish and Quechua respectively.
- Thank the Lord for providing abundant resources and local people to help with the Walkabout Project so far.
- Pray for God's provision for a suitable vehicle and Bolivian partners with whom we will be able to start working next year.
- Pray for a peaceful transition and godly government for Bolivia in December.

Love from Lawrence (alias Human Touch),
Liling (Visible Woman), Alex (Ms Fantastic), Maddie (Flash)
and Anneka (The Muppet).

September 2005 Newsletter of Lawrence and Liling Tan

SIM Bolivia: Cajón 736, Cochabamba, Bolivia. 591(4)4355598. lawrence.tan@sim.org
Newsletter Editors: Cian and Jeremy King 16 Captain Strom Place Dundas NSW 2117. jcking@bigpond.net.au