



QUE PASA

WHAT'S HAPPENING

A Publication of International Children's Care
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Moving Mountains



The ICC Pampanga children at play.

Our kids in the ICC Pampanga Family in the Philippines took God's word to heart and moved some mountains. In December, they put on their first Christmas musical program at the academy. The kids did an excellent job singing and reciting their parts. The three "little" kings, Andy, Jerry and Onyok, walked with dignity in their part of the program. Many creative props were made, such as the collapsible steel manger and a plastic horse attached to an old stroller which Mary (Jolly Ann) could ride in style. Their first performance was a great success.

Their next performance was for the mayor and his staff the following week. When our administration first meet with the mayor about the performance he was tense and aloof, but

became friendly and at ease as they continued to visit, even offering them refreshments. He welcomed the idea of having the children come and sing to him and his staff at their hall. He even offered to take the children upstairs for a little tour of his office.

Our administration staff were able to accomplish many things that day, visiting several other offices in addition to the Municipal Building. They received the tax declaration required for our school registration. They also stopped by the agriculture department and talked to them about our mission and agricultural plans. The agriculture department was very accommodating and

friendly, giving us various seeds like mustard, pechay, local spinach (called aya and long gourd). In addition, a letter will be written soon to the mayor asking for free seedlings like mangoes and citrus when they become available.

Our children performed the Christmas program twice more for churches in Manila. To celebrate their success, the Sabbath School teachers, students from academy, and the house mothers gave the children a Christmas party. There was a lot of good food, including fresh cantaloupe and apples, fun games, and presents from the students. Our kids had so much fun and bonded with many of the stu-

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PLEASE SPONSOR ME!

My name is Jonathan

I need a sponsor. I am 4 years old and live in the Philippines. Please return this coupon to sponsor me each month. Thanks!



\$25 \$50 \$_____

(800)422-7729

Sponsorship Department

Moving Mountains continued

dents. It was a well deserved year-end celebration.

This was a big adventure for the kids. Our children are changing lives, they are giving back to the community, and taking God at His word. They can move mountains. Thank you for your continued support of our children.

Special Time

Our Philippine families are setting aside special time each day to worship, learn, sing, and praise God. The family members of each house gather together every morning and evening for devotionals. On Friday evenings, the members of all three houses gather together in one home to have a special vespers. Occasionally, when the weather is good, they will have their worship time at the playground. The younger children enjoy attending because they love to sing. The older children become involved by leading special song services.

Please pray for our children and their house parents as they seek out God during their special time with Him.

Farming Plow needed

Planting season has arrived at **Las Palmas** and we no longer have a plow to prepare the fields for crops. Our farm at the Las Palmas Children's Village in the Dominican Republic is in urgent need of a plow. The current plow is worn out, and purchasing a new plow is less expensive than repairing the old plow. The new plow will cost \$3,750.

Our farm at Las Palmas provides a significant amount of fresh food for the children at Las Palmas. Without the plow we will not be able to plant crops for this next year. This would mean having to purchase more of the fresh food, thus increasing our operating budget. Please consider what you can do to help Las Palmas purchase a new plow.



Nicaragua Land Opportunity

We have an exciting opportunity in Nicaragua to buy land for a children's village.

In 1998, these children lost their families and loved ones in the tragic events that occurred during Hurricane Mitch. Their homes were gone, their villages destroyed and they found themselves in refugee camps. In an emergency effort we were able to work in cooperation with others to acquire several buildings on a small lot next door to a trucking yard, giving these children a home and providing for their education and every-day needs. We have loved and cared for the 34 children who are currently crowded into these dorms. Their play area is very small and inadequate, as they are growing bigger. ICC's philosophy is to have village homes in the country with plenty of room to play. We believe that homes with 10 to 12 children and house parents benefit our children far more than the typical orphanage style with dormitories.

In the last couple of weeks we have been blessed with an offer of land, on which we can build a

children's village, at a reasonable price of \$40,000. This land is northwest of the town of Chinandega. It is beautiful, lush, country land with a fruit orchard and is a short drive to the Pacific Ocean. But this offer will not last forever, as the owner of the property needs to sell. We must act very soon.

This land is only two kilometers away from a little two acre farm we have that has an unfinished house on it. The house parents have been taking the children to this farm to camp and play in the country. They have planted trees and flowers and made a beautiful little retreat. If we can finish the house it will be an ideal place to house volunteer groups who would come to build our children's village.

Please consider what you can do to help us with this urgent opportunity. Contact Doug Congleton at (800) 422-7729.



A Legacy of Love

*P*roviding for the future through planned giving

Contact Doug Congleton at ICC for more information on how you can become part of the "Legacy of Love"

(800) 422-7729

Doug@ForHisKids.org

A Personal Message

February 2004

Dear ICC Family,

In front of me are ten documents. These documents are brief, but each represents the life of a child. They are from different countries where ICC is caring for orphaned and abandoned children. Each time a child is brought to one of our facilities, the director asks the person who brings him to show legal papers, which includes his birth certificate if he has one, or some personal identification, including the identity of the adult who brings him. If the child comes on her own with no identity, the case is reported to the authorities and a search is begun to determine if the child is lost or stolen. If no record can be found, that child will be considered abandoned, and a legal document is given to allow us to care for her. For each child in our care, there is an introductory form sent to our Vancouver office, giving us all available information as to why the child is homeless. Regular updates are sent to us as to the child's progress. These reports are shared with the ICC family member who sponsors that child.

All of this sounds rather cut and dried when you are talking about a child. But, at the ICC facility, where the child has come, they are highly important and emotional events in that child's life. Most children, when arriving, are in desperate conditions. There are many health issues. First of all there will usually be malnutrition with extended abdomen, dry, burned hair, rough skin, dull, expressionless eyes, except for the fear that is evident. Each child is examined by our doctor, and procedures are begun to address the problems.

While health issues can be challenging, the emotional health of the child is more serious. We may know something of their past, such as abuse and neglect, but the whole story can scarcely ever be known. When I visit our facilities, I can usually spot the new children. They may be more withdrawn, still fearful of what may await them. But it is amazing how quickly they change from the sad, withdrawn look and dull eyes to bright, happy children. Sometimes, when they first come, they hide food under their mattress, remembering that they never knew if there would be any tomorrow. They may try to gorge themselves at first. Our children are fed good, nourishing meals three times a day, and soon their appetites level off to normal. But, besides the real hunger they have suffered, most children are emotionally hungry too, and they need to know that they are safe and won't be hungry anymore.

I have visited many large government orphanages. It is a heart-rending experience. The forlorn, typical orphan look haunts you for days afterwards. They may have a roof over their heads and the basic food needs met, but the greatest need of a child is love and security. In these places, the children will either mob you for attention or huddle off in a corner.

Homes For The Homeless

"Inasmuch as ye have done it unto one of the least of these my brethren, ye have done it unto me." Matthew 25:40

International Children's Care is a different kind of "orphanage," although we don't like that word. We prefer to call them Children's Villages. I have often been there to help receive a new child. It is an experience you will never forget. When you open your arms to envelop that little child with sincere love and understanding, it is the first step to their healing. Our house parents are taught to do this. I have known house mothers to spend time with new children, just sitting and holding them. When they are tucked in for the night with a prayer and a good night kiss, the child begins to know what it feels like to belong and have a home.

My desire and goal has always been that everyone who is involved in the care of our children, teaches them by example what the Love of God is like, and that God is the One who loves the little abandoned children of the world.

We are constantly challenged with new countries asking us to come and help with their abandoned children. In some places the needs are critical and children are dying for want of care. We set up a budget for every program we have around the world, but those budgets must constantly be increased for new children coming in, the need for more housing, for staff and for housing for staff, besides the regular food and basic needs. Right now we are in the process of starting new programs. In the Que Pasa this month you can read about the new facility in the Philippines. There are three homes built but there are 22 children besides the staff and the school in those three houses.

Last night I went to a meeting where someone read a quotation from a book, *My Life Today*, talking about the role of angels here in our world. It was suggested that angels are in charge of Relief Organizations down on this planet. But they use people to accomplish the work, and the angels cooperate to facilitate in bringing help and relief to suffering people. While sitting there, my mind turned back immediately to the years when Ken and I were so heavily involved in ICC. We have often talked of the many providential experiences we had, where we knew that there was divine intervention, not only in the needs of the children, but for our protection in dangerous situations.

One night when I was alone at The Pines I stood out on the patio of the trailer where I slept. It was on a rise overlooking the ten homes, all full of children. It was during the civil war when we were always full of the little victims of that war, children who had gone through horrible experiences. During those days the homes were lit by lamps or candles. I could see the light flickering in the windows and hear the children singing during the worship times in the homes before bedtime. The sound of those sweet voices drifting out in the night air filled me with awe. I read once that angels often join their voices with ours in praise to God. "Oh, Lord!" I prayed. "Are there angels hovering over those homes right now, joining the children in praise to You?"

What a thrilling thought to realize that we are working with angels to care for God's little children down here on earth. What a privilege! It is our goal to teach every one of these children about their Father, who can't wait to bring them Home!

With our love and prayers,

Aleyou and Ken