



January 2005

QUIE PASA

WHAT'S HAPPENING

A Publication of International Children's Care
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Family update



Congo Family

Congo

213 Children

The recent unrest has created problems for our children. In Beni, children were sent to foster care parents because the children's center was located close to the airport which is a strategic military target. Forty children moved from Goma to the island of Idjwi, where construction is nearly completed on the first two homes.

Cambodia

67 children

Our brick making industry has continued to develop and all available property is cultivated and we are actively seeking more land to further develop the center. Our first student has graduated from 12th grade and is now studying at Mission College in Thailand. The need

for orphan care continues to grow in this country with the number of orphans from AIDS alone estimated to be 140,000.

The Philippines

21 children

ICC Philippines Country Home Village now comprises three cottage homes and a small elementary school. Currently, work has commenced on our Administration Home. An office and school staff housing is also needed. The grounds are looking good thanks to the staff and children who have literally carved a real garden of Eden out of what was jungle 18 months ago.

Sri Lanka

44 children

The first two homes have been upgraded and a third home just completed. A bus has been donated. The land has been fully fenced and rock retaining walls constructed to protect the land from erosion and to make further land available for agricultural development. This center urgently needs a home for the administration staff.

India

69 children

Our sixth home has been completed. Our first child will graduate in February from High school and will be moving on to college. The children continue to do very well with their schooling thanks to Lilly and her team and the great support that they give to our young people there.

Dominican

92 Children

We currently have eight homes. One is being used for staff housing and one was closed due to water leaking problems. Las Palmas is getting a new water system. The ditches have been dug, the soil compacted and the foundation is ready for the new water tank. Money has also been raised to do some much needed remodeling to our children's homes. We currently have 130 head of cattle and are producing enough milk and cheese for the project, as well as selling some of the cheese for profit.

Guatemala

163 Children

34 Children in the City Center

We need to build another home for the children. We have raised \$3800 to date for that home. There is also a much needed well drilling rig is now on its way as well.

Myanmar

49 Children

47 Children - Refugee Camp

The children in Bethel home are very talented and interested in music. As Christmas time comes around they are preparing for a Christmas program.

Fighting in Myanmar has gotten worse, and we have had to evacuate for a time at least. Heaps of land mines make life so dangerous for the people of Myanmar.

Mexico

46 Children

A new home will be opening soon to allow for us to place fewer children in each home. The director's home is now complete and our new children's services directors are hard at work.

Romania

38 Children

Our second home is under construction and the administration duplex is nearly completed.

Nicaragua

29 Children

Twenty-nine children are being cared for in the Casa Hogar Fuente de Vida receiving center.

Volunteer groups are gearing up for mission trips to this project in 2005 to finish the volunteer center. Our property purchase fell through and we need your prayers as we continue to work on securing a piece of land for the children's village.



Thailand Family

Thailand

147 children

The main ICC Center in Thailand continues to develop its micro industries, gardens, orchards and teak plantation. Some of our children have now completed their schooling, with five currently in post secondary training and two who graduated from vocational courses this year.

Brazil

21 Children

ICC continues to provide assistance to the ADRA sponsored children's homes in Brazil where 21 children now here.

Colombia

25 Children

ICC continues to provide for the care of twenty-five children in Colombia. Because of the political and social unrest this country has experienced in recent years,

the children are being cared for in foster homes.

Ukraine

10 Children

Pastor Bostan and his wife continue to care for 10 children in the house that was built for them by faithful supporters.

Ghana

12 Children

We have rented a home closer to where our administrator lives. The children are so happy to finally be in a home together as a family. With the new house we had room for 6 more children.

During this coming year we hope to rent a second home and also plan to see if we can find some property that a village may donate to ICC to begin an ICC campus for these children.

Zambia

10 Children

We have two children's homes nearly completed. The first is currently housing nine children, with an addition of three children in the near future. The Wilson's live in the second home, which is also used for an office and guests accommodations. The foundation for a third house is complete. We are also renovating an old building to be used as a schoolroom, meeting room and warehouse. We are currently gardening, growing fruit trees, and have 400 chickens, from which we sell about 100 dozen eggs a week.

A Message from the President

January 2005

Another year has passed into history, and as we stand on the threshold of 2005, I give you my heart-felt thanks on behalf of the hundreds of ICC kids that receive opportunities in life through your faithful and generous support.

I realize that it is only by God's grace and goodness that together we have been able to care for the hundreds of children in our receiving centers and children's villages around the world. As our family has grown over the years, it has been a personal inspiration and joy to see ICC's grown-up children making positive choices, obtaining college degrees, choosing life partners and finding their place in the local society. And more and more frequently now we are receiving messages telling us that our children are having children of their own. This truly is the harvest that the ICC family of supporters loves to see. These children ask me over and over to please tell all the sponsors and donors how much they appreciate the help.

As you can see by this worldwide report in the *Que Pasa*, ICC is family to 1,400 children in 17 different countries. We take our role in the children's lives seriously, for ICC house moms and dads are the only parents many of our children have ever known. Nowhere is this more evident than in Democratic Republic of Congo at our expanding children's village, newly named "Patmos Children's Village," located on the island of Idjwi on Lake Kivu. In November, Sharon and I visited this project during a lull in the fighting between Rwandan forces and Congolese rebels. Most people outside of that region are unaware of the desperate situation in society there. According to the International Rescue Committee, more than 3.8 million people have died since the start of the war in August, 1998. Because of the continued hostilities, more than 31,000 civilians die monthly. Many of the children at the Patmos Children's Village have experienced the horrors of war. Some have seen their own parents being hacked to death by enemy soldiers. When these children first came to ICC, their quiet demeanor and haunting eyes reflected the trauma they experienced. How excited we were on this visit to see the changes in these same children who have found security and love on this protected island.

Yet the war rages. Recently we received word of the Rwandan army's invasion of Congo, which has forced our director to evacuate our receiving center in Goma and move those children to the Patmos village on the island. The conflict in Congo continues to escalate, and we are concerned about the safety of our children. We need to get extra funds to them for purchasing food, which is very scarce right now, and it is two or three times more expensive than usual.

There are other conflicts raging around the world affecting ICC projects. In Zambia our staff and children are under attack from Malaria, which is rampant in the area where our children's village

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

is located. We are working with local doctors and hospitals to battle the malaria. Conditions are so bad we may be forced to evacuate all our children to another location. This situation is adding a financial burden for the Zambia project.

In the Dominican Republic our Las Palmas Children's Village is under a financial attack. The exchange rate for the US dollar recently plummeted making it impossible for their current budget adequately to support the care of our children. And there are many, many other big and little challenges that we face on a daily basis as we continue to strive to keep the ICC family safe and protected.

As we enter 2005, and face these difficult challenges, I am tremendously thankful for our extended family of ICC donors and supporters. The health and wellbeing of our children and the entire mission of ICC is dependent on God multiplying and blessing your support. You are a vital part of this family and mission, and I want to make a special appeal to you at this time. We need your continued support in the following ways:

1. Prayer Support. Spiritual attacks are some of the most difficult to detect and prepare for. Please make the ministry and children of ICC a regular part of your prayers. We will make it a regular feature in upcoming Que Pasa to present specific prayer requests and answers to prayer. Please join us as we lift up to God our petitions for protection and blessings for His children.
2. Referral Support. As our family of children has grown, our family of supporters is struggling to keep up with the increased financial needs. The children need more supporters. You and I receive a wonderful blessing by helping these children. Perhaps you can help us spread the word (and the Que Pasa) to others so that they too can share in this blessing. We will make it easy for you by supplying videos and other informational materials. Please contact Liana or Jessica at our office for more information on how you can share this blessing with others.
3. Financial Support. Because of the increased needs, and the crises we face in many different projects, that can only be solved through increased funding, I am compelled to share this need with you. Specifically, the children need more sponsors. In Congo alone we need over 1,500 sponsorships. Maybe some of you who are currently sponsoring might be able to increase your sponsorship by \$5 - \$10 per month or possibly by sponsoring an additional child. New sponsorships would help to fortify our projects against the challenges that are created during these times of uncertainty.

If you are able to help us in one or more of these areas, I can assure you that it will go a long way toward meeting these challenges.

In the more than 20 years that He has allowed me to serve Him in this work, I've seen times of crisis come and go. I've experienced wonderful miracles – and yes, I've shed some tears. And as ICC faces this New Year filled with uncertainty, I am steadfast in my belief and faith that this is God's work, and He will make the provision where there is need. Perhaps you will be one of those who He works through in a greater way during this New Year.

May His blessings be felt in your life during 2005.

On behalf of His Kids,

Rick Fleck