



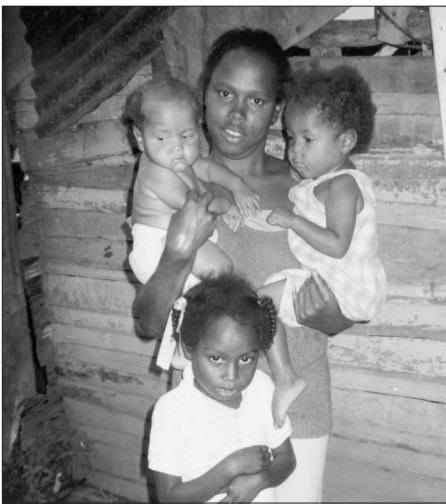
# QUE PASA

WHAT'S HAPPENING

A Publication of International Children's Care  
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## NO WHERE TO TURN! A DOMINICAN STORY



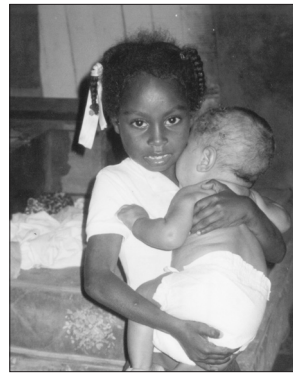
The family

Jeffry, six months old, Yerling two years old, and Yarineth, six years old, live in the Dominican Republic. The family is going through a serious economic crisis. They hardly have any food and when we first heard their story they were living in a lean-to shack. Their difficult situation began when the father was drunk and hit another man. He has now been in jail for more than a year. They still have not given him a date for a trial.

Jeffry, the youngest, is malnourished and is in the hospital with a high fever and a cold. Yerling has scabies all over her body which cause intolerable itching. She too has a cold and fever.

The children's mother cannot work because she has no one to watch the children. They live from day to day on charity and what little their maternal grandmother can give them.

A local church member, told our Las Palmas staff member about this woman and her children. We have been looking into what can be done for them. The children are not even registered in the civil registry office. We have made several visits to assess the situation and to see how we can help.



Yarineth and her brother

Sometime after our first visit, their home was destroyed by a bad rain storm. They are currently living close to the river in a small room. They are still lacking the basic necessities of life.

The mother wants our Las Palmas Children's Village to care for her children. Others have asked her to give her children up for adoption, but this would mean they might be taken out of the country. She refused because she wants to have them close where she can see them. She is convinced that ICC is the place for her little ones.

Melida Aviles

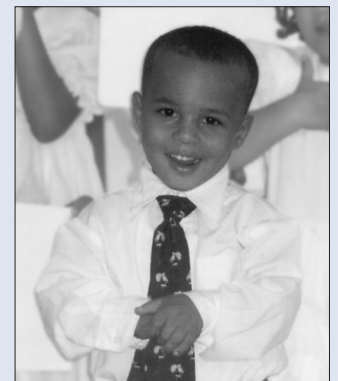
## PLEASE SPONSOR ME!

### My name is Antonio

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

\$25    \$50    \$\_\_\_\_\_

(800)422-7729  
Sponsorship Department



# GRADUATION AND CONGRATULATIONS

The result of what love can do is simply amazing! The miracle of love is apparent in a great many ways, but graduation is a milestone for many of our children at ICC. This year at Las Palmas we have had numerous students graduate, and more will be graduating in the coming months. Here is information about two of our recent graduates.

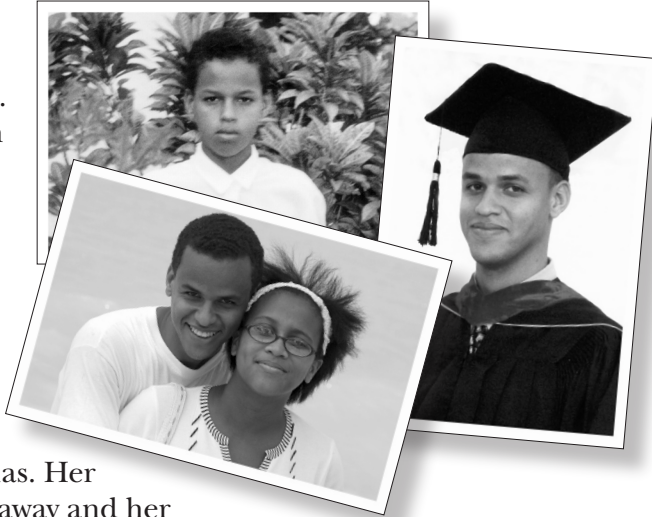
Luz Belkis came to ICC in 1990 at the age of 11. She came with her sisters Anyelina and Yanelis to start a new life at Las Palmas. Her mother had passed away and her aunt was unable to continue caring for the children. It did not take Luz Belkis long to make herself at home in Las Palmas.

This year Luz Belkis graduated from the university with a degree in business



administration. We are so proud of all that she has accomplished. Luz Belkis is giving back to ICC as she now is working as our Spanish Development Associate in the Dominican Republic.

Samuel arrived at Las Palmas in 1988 at the age of 10. Samuel came to us with his two brothers Daniel and Yonatan. Because of financial hardships, Samuel's mother brought them to ICC. By the time he was 12, Samuel knew that he



wanted to be a pastor. At this young age, Samuel wrote, "My favorite classes are Bible and Social Studies, because in the Bible I learn a great deal about my God and I want to be a good pastor, and in Social Studies I learn about history." In December 2004, Samuel graduated with a Theology degree. In January, he married Carolyn, and the happy couple is now living in the Las Terrenas area where Samuel serves as a pastor.

These young adults are two very good reasons why ICC exists. Love and financial support has made a very big difference in their lives. All of us at ICC are very proud of all our graduates. Please keep them in your prayers as they face the challenges of life and make a difference in our world.

## Thank you VersaCare

ICC and the Las Palmas campus would like to say thank you to VersaCare for their generous donation of a new water system. This water system will generate clean drinking and cooking water for the whole campus.

We would also like to say a special thanks to Robert Coy, President of VersaCare, for helping make this project possible; to Reg King, the engineer, for his hard work; and to Job Rojas for overseeing the installation.



## A CLOSER LOOK

The Las Palmas Children's Village has grown enormously over the years from its humble beginnings. As the project has grown, so have the needs. Please take the time to look over our list of needs at Las Palmas. Thank you for all your prayers and financial support!

New beds (108) .....	\$15,668
Repairs for the director's home ....	\$12,500
Desks and white boards .....	\$1,086



# A Personal Note

Dear ICC Family,

“Mommy Fleck! Doña Gladys needs you. She asked me to see if you can come to help her.”

It was one of the children at Las Palmas in The Dominican Republic many years ago. I had just come the night before, and, as usual, was in the guest room.

“Tell her I’ll be there in just a few moments,” I told the girl.

Walking toward Gladys’ house across the road, I noticed her out near the gate talking to a woman with some children. It is common for a parent to come to the gate with a child. There are times when our houses are full. We consider 12 children the maximum capacity for our homes. In some cases, Gladys would have to tell the parents that we didn’t have room at the moment.

Also, we have guidelines for accepting children. Children younger than eight are given priority, partly because the younger children adjust more easily, but also because our housemothers find that the older ones are often more of a challenge to fit into the family without presenting difficult discipline problems. But, all in all, it is never easy to turn away a child

When Gladys saw me coming, she came to meet me. “I don’t know what to do about this case. This is a Christian family. The father is seriously ill, and the mother’s health is fragile, too. Besides their health, the parents are in a financial situation where they can’t feed the children. I know they really don’t qualify. They aren’t orphans, but they are suffering. I’m glad you are here. I have already told her that these children don’t qualify. What do you think I should do?”

I asked her more about this family, and I saw the plea in the mother’s eyes. I noticed that two of the children were looking toward the homes expectantly. They noticed other children playing down the street. Apparently, the mother had prepared them to stay.

“The oldest girl is eleven. The younger ones seem to want to stay, but I’m not sure about the older girl.” Gladys added.

I talked to the mother for a few minutes and to the children. Then I asked Gladys, “Do you have room for these children?”

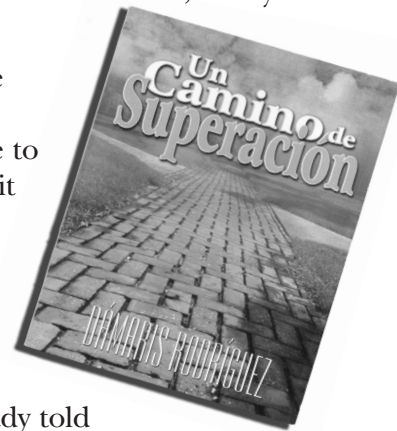
“Yes, I think we could work it out. We might have to divide them into two different homes temporarily.”

We decided to let them stay, at least until the parents’ situation improved. The oldest girl, Damaris, seemed timid and withdrawn at first. Obviously, she felt the pain of the separation from her family, and even wondered if her parents were rejecting her. The reports each month said that she was a good, obedient girl, but no one could know her struggles to understand why she could no longer be with her parents.

As time went on, the children adjusted. The mother’s longing to see her children all in school gave her the peace that her decision had been the right one. The father never regained his health to be able to work and support the family. The children were well behaved and did well in school, and became part of their new families.

Damaris is a young lady now. She graduated with a degree in psychology from the Adventist University nearby, always an excellent student. Just this week Rick told me that Damaris is in charge of the library at our school at Las Palmas, while she is working on her Master’s degree in psychology.

When I was given a small book, just recently printed, I saw the name Damaris Rodriguez as the author on the front. After reading it through, I could better understand her struggle to adjust when she first came. The book tells some of the lessons she has learned about life. The main thrust is, instead of look-





ing at our problems and always asking, “Why?” she says she has learned to ask, “For what reason?” Every problem in life can be a learning experience. She has learned to look at life with a positive instead of a pessimistic attitude.

Her counselor at Las Palmas believes that Damaris has a talent for writing. She has already sold enough copies of her book to more than pay for the expense of printing it.

I thought about Damaris in light of my own interest in writing. Is she our first budding author? We don't know just what her future will be, but we do know that with her faith in God, Damaris is developing her talents, and now wants to inspire other young people to not be mired down in asking “Why?” but “For what reason?” Every problem in life can be a stepping-stone toward success.

In reflecting on Damaris' life, what ICC has meant to her, I thought again of all the potential that goes to waste when children are never given a chance. Our children in ICC are not only supplied with their physical needs, but they are given love, security, the knowledge of a God who considers them “very special,” and the opportunity to develop their talents and reach their potential for service to God and man.

Damaris' story should help us all to know what ICC means to the children. Is it worth the sacrifice, and all the effort that it takes to keep our doors open for children?” I emphatically say, “Yes, a thousand times Yes!”



With our love and prayers,

*Aleyou and Fen*

If you read Spanish and want a copy of Damaris' book, contact Luz Belkis at 1-800-695-1386

## SEE YOU AT THE BOOTH

ICC will have a booth at the upcoming Adventist General Conference session. Our booth numbers will be #122 & #124.

You will be able to purchase products in our booth that come from some of the countries that ICC operates in. Our own children have made some of the products that we will be selling.

Please come by the booth and find out how you can “Help build a home” with our new Lego's® model home.

All proceeds from sales will go to help pay for the Children's budgets at the projects.



Here is just a sample of what we will have in our booth.