



July 2005

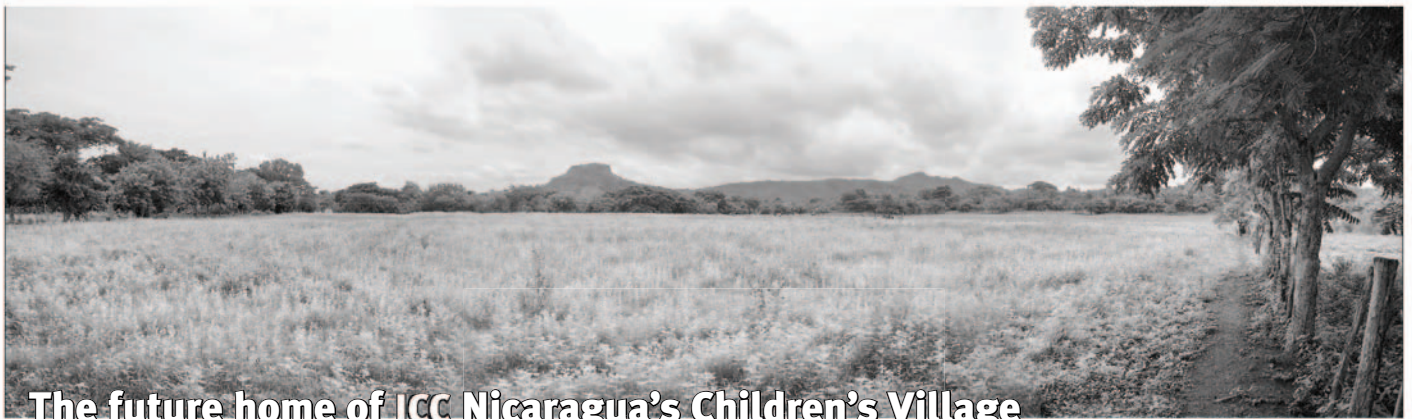
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WHAT'S HAPPENING

A Publication of International Children's Care
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PROPERTY SECURED FOR NICARAGUA CHILDREN'S VILLAGE



The future home of ICC Nicaragua's Children's Village

We have exciting news to share about the ICC project in Nicaragua. After several failed attempts to secure land for a children's village, we have finally been able to locate and formalize an agreement to purchase 92 acres for this purpose. We feel that God has His hand in this. The piece of property is located directly across from the "Finca" which is the

"We feel that God has richly blessed us with this property."

house that will serve as volunteer quarters for groups that will help to build the children's village. This makes it an ideal location. As well, the land itself has varying types of terrain and is well suited for a children's village.

From the higher points on the property one can see the Pacific Ocean which is located only 5 miles away.

This property will provide our children with wonderful recreation opportunities. Mission groups will also find this setting desirable for mixing hard work

with relaxation. The mayor of the region has given ICC the right to use land near the beach on which to build an open air shelter. This shelter, or "rancho," will accommodate the children or volunteers who'd like to spend some time enjoying the beach.

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PLEASE SPONSOR ME!

My name is Ana Paula

I need a sponsor. I am 9 years old and live in Mexico. Please return this coupon to sponsor me each month. Thanks!

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A Personal Note

Dear ICC Family,

“Señora!” one of the aunts at the Guatemala Receiving Center called to the director, “The police are at the door. They have a little boy for us.”

When the director at that time, Maria Feldman, went to the door, she saw the officer in uniform carrying a small child, approximately one year old.

“Come in,” she told the officer. Once inside the reception area, she asked, “What is the story of this little boy. Where did you find him?”

“He was found wandering the streets alone. We don’t know if he was lost or abandoned, but the judge told us to bring him here,” the officer explained, handing the director the court order.

First, she opened the door to the nursery area and asked for the nurse in charge to come.

“We have a new little boy,” she told her. “Take him and give him his bath. He looks like he hasn’t had one for a long, long time. I think we have an extra crib back there. Be sure he gets something to eat. He seems to be malnourished.”

After the nurse left with the child, Maria signed the court order and the officer left. When she went into the children’s area a little later, she found the new little boy dressed in clean clothes, with one of the nannies holding him. “He was pretty scared,” she said. “When I gave him some milk he just clung to me.”

“You are doing the right thing,” Maria assured her. “We have no idea what all has happened to this little fellow, and the first thing we want to do is to make him feel safe.”

When the social worker went to report the case to the court, there had been no report of a lost child. Time went on. No one even knew his name, so they began to call him Carlos. A search was begun through the courts. No one ever claimed him, and eventually he was declared abandoned.

In the meantime, Carlos adjusted to his new home at the Center. The doctor, who visits regularly, examined him and cared for his medical needs. His reports showed signs of normal development, and he became a happy, active little boy.

By the time he was freed for adoption he was no longer a toddler. Most adoptive parents wanted a younger child. Somehow he was passed by. When he noticed one of the other children leaving with new adoptive parents, he asked, “Can I have a home of my own? Doesn’t anyone want me?”

Recently, Sharon (ICC’s director of programs) and Anabela (now the director of the Guatemala Receiving Center) discussed Carlos’ situation. “It is high time this little boy has a permanent home,” Sharon said. “Let’s see if they have a home at The Pines with room for him.”

One day, Anabela called little Carlos to her, “Carlitos, I found a new mommy and daddy for you! Would you like to go out to the children’s village where you can have a home of your own?”

“Oh yes, Señora! I want a home of my own, and I want a mommy and daddy. When can I go?”

“It will be soon, Carlitos.” she promised.



[Carlos when he arrived](#)

The little fellow could hardly wait, and yet it was a little scary to leave the Center that had been the only home he knew. He wondered if someone would really want him.

When Anabela walked up to his new home with him, she told the mother, "This is your new little boy, Carlos Barrios Pineda."

"Really? How could that happen?" the mother exclaimed. She took little Carlos into her arms. Your two last names are exactly the same as my own son's. You will be our little son!" He would now be a member of the twelve children in that home, but he would be one of only two with the same last names.

Carlos, for the first time knew how it felt to be wanted as a son. He threw his arms around his new mommy with hugs and kisses. At last he had come home!



Carlos today

With our love,
Aleyou and Jen

P. S. International Children's Care exists to provide homes for children. Carlitos is just one of these children. With the generous support of all of you, our ICC family, we will continue to grow and make room for many more little children who are just as lost as Carlitos was. Thank you so much for helping us make it possible.

KNOXVILLE TO NICARAGUA MISSION TRIP

Recently, a youth group from Knoxville, Tennessee, participated in a mission trip to the ICC project in Nicaragua. The following is an excerpt from a report written by one of the groups leaders. We hope that other groups will be inspired as well to help us build the children's village in Nicaragua.

On May 26, 27 excited adventurers gathered in the church parking lot. We were preparing to drive to the Nashville Airport and from there fly to Nicaragua.

Rick Greve, our church pastor, and our church members had been planning this youth mission trip since October, 2004. And so, for the 11 adults and 16 youth, the much-anticipated day had finally arrived.

We flew from Nashville to Managua where we spent our first night without 11 of our bags, which had taken later flight. Early the next day, we departed for El Viejo, our final destination. We arrived at the orphanage and met the 28 children who live there.



This orphanage was established by International Children's Care and is managed by Felix and Angelica Almendarez. The orphanage was created in October, 1998, in response to a terrible natural disaster.

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Knoxville to Nicaragua Mission Trip continued

The crater wall of the flooded Las Casitas volcano split open unleashing a mudslide that plunged down the side of the volcano and obliterated everything in its path. 3,000 were killed as it covered village after village.

The orphans we met were those who had lost their parents in this devastating tragedy. We were able to visit the site of this tragedy which gave our group a deeper awareness of what the children had suffered.

Our job was to continue work on the volunteer center at the children's village. Our group worked very hard and with limited resources. By the end of the week, we had leveled the floors in the three main rooms and run much of the electrical conduit and wires.

We felt good about what we were able to accomplish. We also were able to leave \$1500 with Felix and Angelica to finish the electrical and to use for whatever needs they may have at the orphanage.

This center is just across the road from 92 acres of property recently purchased by ICC which will one day become a children's village. Once the volunteer center is finished, other groups will stay there while they work on building the children's village.

We also conducted a Vacation Bible School at the Seventh-day Adventist school in Chinandega. We sang with the kids, played games, did crafts and wrapped up each service by dramatically illustrating a Bible story. We were challenged as we had planned for 50 kids and ended up having 112!

Our group also spent time bonding at worship each evening. This was a very meaningful time for the group to reflect on their experience and what God was trying to teach them.

After suffering a lack of most of the comforts we are used to, you'd think that our group would have been anxious to come home. We went without air-conditioning in very hot weather and we were never quite dry, always sweating. We ate unusual food. We slept on two-inch thick mats on the floor. We shared two showers and bathrooms. We were completely out of our comfort zone.

And yet, in the midst of it all, we knew that we were doing God's work. We felt an incredible spirit of unity in our group. We were united in our mission, and God blessed us as a result.

When it came time to say goodbye, we had bonded so much with those beautiful children at the orphanage that we didn't want to leave. Many tears were shed.

Most of our group can't wait to go back to Nicaragua. All of us can't wait for Heaven, when we will be reunited in a better place and an even happier time.

By: Will Johns



Nicaragua Property continued

In July, ICC representatives will begin developing a site plan for the children's village. It will include the basic infrastructure as well as locations for the children's homes, administrative buildings, school, industries and church.

We feel that God has richly blessed us with this property. Our ICC children in Nicaragua look forward to the day when they can finally be transferred from their temporary home in the receiving center to permanent homes. Please join us in praying for God's blessings as plans progress for making this dream a reality for our children.



ICC's new property in Nicaragua.



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

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Doug@ForHisKids.org