



January 2006

# QUE PASA

WHAT'S HAPPENING

A Publication of International Children's Care  
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## New Beginnings

### Happy New Year

from all of us at ICC! What challenges and opportunities are in store for us in 2006? Only God knows. At ICC, we continue to look to Him for guidance as we press forward. While the year is still relatively "new," we want to take you back for a look at some "new beginnings" that happened at ICC in 2005. Though this brief review is not an exhaustive list, it does give us the opportunity to praise God for His blessings and seek your continued support for ICC's children in 2006.

### New Birth

Because of the nature of our ministry, we typically receive children into our care after they have been born. However, we are thrilled when a child makes a decision to be born again in Christ. Over the years, many of our children have made this decision. In 2005, our project in Nicaragua held its first

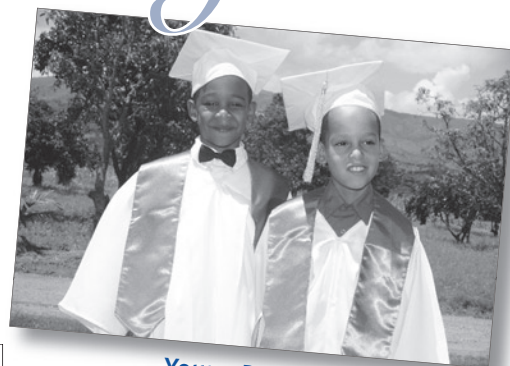
baptism as nine children dedicated themselves to the Lord. We praise God for these new beginnings in 2005 and look forward to many more in the future.

### New Children

It's exciting for us to welcome a new child into the ICC family! During the last year, 166 children found a new beginning at ICC. We praise God for the additions to our growing family.

### New Graduates

Graduations are huge milestones in the lives of our children, many of whom did not have any formal schooling when they came to us. In August, at the Las Palmas Children's Village in the Dominican Republic, graduation exercises were held for grades 1, 8, and 12. There were a total of 25 excited graduates. In October, at the Los Pinos Children Village



Young Dominican Graduates

in Guatemala, graduation exercises were held for grades 6, 9 and 12. There were a total of 42 ICC graduates. Last year, ICC's Sweet Home Children's Village had their first 12th grade graduate, Sridhar Bodugu. Sridhar is now studying medical technology in preparation for medical school. While Sridhar anticipates beginning his medical training, in Colombia. Alirio Guerra graduated from medical school and faces a new beginning in his chosen career as a physician. We share in the joy and excitement

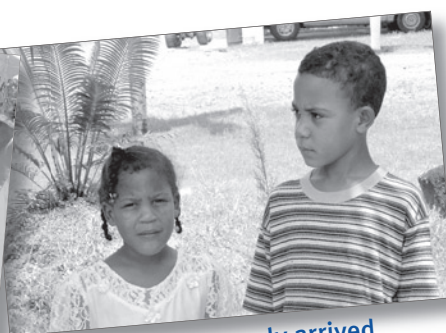
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Brother & sisters - just arriving



Dominican Graduates



Sister & brother - newly arrived



Anny's wedding



Nicaragua Baptismal Group



Opening of the New Home in Romania

of all these children as they have reached a new level of success in their education and face new challenges in the future.

## Newly Married

Two of ICC's children were married during 2005, both from the Dominican Republic. Samuel, a recent graduate from Theology, was married in January. He is enjoying his ministry as a pastor in a nearby district. In September, one of our girls, Anny, was married. She graduated from university a year and a half previously with a degree in business administration. Her husband's name is also Samuel. He is a business graduate and works with investments. At the ICC Las Palmas Children's Village, Anny manages the bakery which is doing very well.

## New Homes

In October, the children's village in Romania opened its second home. Built in large

from donations received from ICC's Iceland chapter, this facility is now home to 10 children. You can read more about this home in the "Personal Message" section of this Que Pasa. In February, the Sweet Home Children's Village in India dedicated and opened house number six. Additional homes are being constructed at other ICC projects and will be completed in 2006. These include four homes in Congo, one home in Guatemala and the first home in Nicaragua.

## New Sponsors

Our child sponsorship program plays a vital part in sustaining this ministry for orphan and abandoned children. It's always exciting when someone new calls to inquire about becoming a sponsor. As of December 2005, ICC had added 618 new sponsorships for the year. Welcome new sponsors to the ICC family!

## New Challenges

Shortly after the tsunami struck in Southeast Asia in December of 2004, ICC was faced with a new challenge – raising funds to sustain our children's projects in areas not affected by the tsunami. Billions of dollars were given by people around the world in support of the relief effort. ICC was involved where possible. Shipping containers were sponsored and/or sent to the region, projects gave from their own supplies to help those in need, and orphans were cared for in the Andaman Islands. Yet, many of our existing projects had to get by with less because our European sources of funds were drastically reduced by tsunami fund raising initiatives in those countries. As we begin 2006, the challenge continues. This year we want to help to meet the challenge by initiating efforts to try to make our projects more self-sustaining through micro-industries and in-country fund-raising efforts. We want to thank each of you for the way you have rallied around our projects to support and sustain them throughout 2005. Without your efforts this ministry for children would not be possible. May God bless you abundantly as you begin this New Year.

## Correction

In the December 2005 Qué Pasa we incorrectly stated that we have 192 children in the Congo. We actually have 165 children.

# Congo Challenge Extended

In October, one of our Congo sponsors graciously offered a challenge to our ICC family. Donations made for over \$100 to the Congo project will be matched up to \$4,000. That total will then go towards our building project in Congo. Thanks to all who have given. \$1,825 has come in towards that matching

gift. Please pray about this challenge gift as our sponsor has now extended this offer. By your gift to "Congo Matching Gift" we will receive double the money to be used for the building project (up to \$4,000). Please help us maximize the blessing from this wonderful offer.

# A Personal Note

Dear Friends and ICC Family Members,

I recently visited ICC's project in Odobesti, Romania where my wife and I had the privilege of serving as directors during the late 1990's. It was wonderful being back and hearing the voices of the children shouting out my name in greeting – "Kent, Kent, Kent!"

During my brief visit, I enjoyed reminiscing about God's leading in this project. Through a generous donation, we were able to purchase some buildings that once were used as a communist cooperative farm for cattle. The buildings were in sad shape. We would have to do major renovations and would need to purchase building materials and supplies. We would also need someone to guard the supplies. But who could we entrust with such a task? After some thoughtful consideration, my assistant, Gabi Necula, found just the person. Soon the arrangements were made and 18-year old George became our guard and night watchman. George was very conscientious and careful in his duties. We were pleased.

As we got to know George better we started to recognize a certain young lady friend who would visit him from time to time. Her name was Nicoleta, and she would bring him food and chat for awhile. From the embarrassed smiles on George's face, we understood that this was his sweetheart. Those of us who saw them together thought they'd make a wonderful couple. Their mutual love grew and eventually they were married. By this time, Nicoleta was also working for ICC as one of the care-givers in the receiving center.

It has been rewarding for me to see this couple grow and mature over time: dedicated, hard working, loyal and fully enjoying their work. Many a night or early morning, when I would leave our property, I would be met by George's friendly smile as he opened the gate for me. When he was on duty, I felt everything was secure.

Over the years George has been entrusted with many other tasks and responsibilities: gardening, car maintenance and chauffeur. I could also tell that Nicoleta was growing in her responsibilities at the receiving center. She had such a wonderful way with the children – loving, gentle and bringing out good qualities in them. Recently it came as no surprise to me to learn that George and Nicoleta had been asked to be house parents for our latest children's home. I was thrilled by the news, and even more thrilled when I had the opportunity to visit the children's village in November.

It was wonderful being with the children and staff of ICC Romania once again. There was a small party, a gathering of old friends and staff alike. When the activities were winding down, I accompanied George and Nicoleta to see the new home. It was dark. The evening was cold and crisp. There was a welcoming glow from the porch light of the house in the distance. As we walked together our conversation turned to George and Nicoleta's family. I knew they had some children of their own, and I asked George, "How many children do you have?" I fully expected him to say "one" or "two," but his response was immediate and clear.

"Ten."



George with the children at the official opening of the new home



George and Nicoleta with their ten children

I let the significance of that number sink in. *There were eight children from ICC and two children of his own*, but to George, the only number that mattered was that he had ten children now.

We entered the warmth of the new home, but it was nothing compared to the warmth I felt inside from realizing how God was using this young couple to bless and nurture the children that had been entrusted to them. The aunt of the home welcomed us. Making my way through the rooms I took in all the sites. Children's coats and shoes were neatly organized by the front door. Everything was neat and in order. A bouquet of flowers from the garden was placed on the table. The children were safely tucked into bed.

"This is good," I said to myself. "This is real good."

The next day I visited the family again. I enjoyed seeing the children interact with their new parents. You could tell the children love George and Nicoleta very much. This is a happy, healthy, vibrant home and the children will thrive in their care.

I wasn't able to stay long in Romania, but there is a lasting impression that lingers.

**Seven years ago we entrusted our buildings and supplies to George. Now, we are entrusting so much more– the lives of God's precious children. These are ICC's most treasured gifts, and I am convinced they are in good hands.**

Around the world today, there are many other ICC house parents like George and Nicoleta who minister to the needs of our children. They, too, are on the front lines of duty answering God's call to "care for the orphans." Faithfully they nurture the children entrusted to them. But they can't answer the call by themselves. They continue to need your prayers and support through the resources God has entrusted to you.

Thank you for all that you continue to do for the work of ICC. This enables our house parents to do what they do best – provide a loving family for "His Kids."

In His service,

*Kent Greve*



**Kent Greve** serves as the *International Development Director* for ICC coordinating awareness and funding initiatives in support of the children.

*Coming next month!*



**Nicaragua container loaded and ready to ship! Details in the next Qué Pasa.**