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QUE PASA

WHAT'S HAPPENING

A Publication of International Children's Care
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ICC THAILAND VILLAGE

Child Portrait

Hands rough and calloused from hard work. Scars that show the labor of love for his family. Hands that protect with a caring touch and keep dangers at bay. Hands that play. A father's hands. Imagine if you never had those hands to protect, soothe, and tell stories. What difference would it make in your life?

Teddy* never felt those hands, for his father died right after he was born. Teddy was never able to experience the loving care found in a father's hands.

After his father's death, his mother faced the daunting task of raising him and supporting the family financially as well. She worked hard to provide food and take care of little Teddy. Her hands became calloused from the work of weaving and cooking and washing that thousands of women just like her do in Thailand to provide for their families. Her hands would caress his small face as he went to sleep at night. Those mother hands would hold his as they walked through the streets. But those hands once strong and young

became thin and frail as Teddy's mother became sick with cancer.



Teddy's mother died near the end of 2005 when he was only seven years old. His poor, elderly grandparents could not take care of him.

The loving hands of ICC welcomed Teddy into the ICC family at Kirsten Jade Receiving Center – Thailand in February 2006 just two months after his mother's death. Because he came near the end of the school year he was home schooled to give him time to adjust to his new surroundings. Today he loves to play soccer, swim, and roller skate. He sings and enjoys going to church and school. With the help of ICC and his

—Continued on back page—

PLEASE SPONSOR ME!

My name is Yuranan

I need a sponsor. I am 2 years old and live in Thailand. Please return this coupon to sponsor me each month. Thanks!

☐ \$30 ☐ \$60 ☐ \$_____

(800)422-7729
Sponsorship Department



INNOCENT CHILDREN

Pedrito's Story

Most of us lead a privileged and relatively sheltered life free from the worry of oppression and violence. But in many parts of the world this is not the case. In fact, it is very often the opposite. The repercussions of these unstable situations are reflected most heavily on innocent children. The following story from our Los Pinos Receiving Center in Guatemala City will make that fact clear. This story was related to us through the director of the receiving center, Anabela.

“Right now Guatemala is being ravaged by an uncontrollable wave of violence that respects no man, woman, or child.

“In June of 2006, a group of gangsters broke into the humble shack of an Indian peasant woman and attacked her. She was holding her three-day-old baby Pedrito in her arms. The woman was murdered with a sharp knife, and when her body fell to the floor, it covered the baby. Many hours passed before the crime was discovered.

“When emergency workers came to the scene, they found the small body of the baby covered by the body of his mother. They



Pedrito and his new family

thought he was dead, but then Pedrito started to cry. When they examined him, they found that he was unharmed. A judge ordered him to be transferred to our Los Pinos Receiving Center where we immediately began caring for him—bathing him and giving him a warm bottle of formula. He was crying a lot since he had gone for many hours without food.

“All of the personnel of Los Pinos fell in love with Pedrito. They lovingly watched over him and prayed that God would find a solution for him. Pedrito grew to be healthy and sound. After a while the court found some of Pedrito's relatives, and after they complied with the legal requirements, he was given to them.

“Pedrito now lives with his new family in a beautiful area of the country. Although the death of this mother is an irreplaceable loss, we are sure that God heard our prayers, and we at Los Pinos feel very happy that Pedrito now has his new family.”

Our receiving center in Guatemala has saved the lives of many, many children. It is one of very few places in Guatemala where children with experiences like Pedrito's can find refuge and the hope of a new life. Won't you please consider becoming a sponsor for the receiving center so more innocent children like Pedrito can find refuge?



Some of the receiving center children

A Personal Note

Dear ICC family,

Paul and Janet Edgren are very good friends of ICC, and we have had the privilege of traveling together with them to many of the ICC projects. Paul is the vice-chairman of the ICC board of directors, and is also the volunteer international development director for ICC.

We recently met them in Guatemala. They had just spent some time in Nicaragua with a group of 10 volunteers, and they spent the next few days helping with several projects in Guatemala. Here is a letter I received from Paul that he would like me to share with you:

This last month my wife, Janet, and I took a group of 10 volunteers to Nicaragua and Guatemala. While in Nicaragua the group laid concrete blocks for the second children's home. In Guatemala we painted the exterior of one of the homes. We also laid concrete blocks for a new kitchen building and painted and decorated the inside of one of the homes.

My involvement as a volunteer for ICC began 10 years ago. My first trip was to the homes in Guatemala. Since that beginning I have visited 20 countries or more, on around 15-20 trips for I.C.C. It has changed my life, and I thank God for that. Now I was visiting Guatemala 10 years later for a second time. How time flies!

Janet and I sponsor 6 children in Guatemala. We were looking forward to meeting each of them. On a Thursday evening Joel and Sonia, the administrators in Guatemala, planned a fiesta. The occasion was Sharon Fleck's birthday. Rick and Sharon were there with us. The children were very excited as they love special events like this one. Each of the homes brought dinner for their kids, and there was even a birthday cake for Sharon. In addition there was music provided by a five-person marimba!

It was at this event that Janet and I were able to meet the children we sponsored. As each one of the children came over to us we listened and learned about each of them. This experience was much more emotional than we had expected it to be. These children long for the day to know that someone cares enough to provide for and love them.

With tears in his eyes one of the older boys told us it is the dream of every boy and girl there to know they have a sponsor and meet them.

At the end of the evening Janet and I talked to each other about how we need to do a better job at writing to "our kids." If you are sponsoring one child or more I encourage you to take a few minutes and write them. Tell them you care about them. Encourage them to do their best, and tell them you love them! Include your picture. They will cherish the picture. In so doing you are filling a big void in their lives. You will be playing a big part in mending their broken hearts.

If you are not a sponsor, become one. It will change your life



The Edgrens with their sponsored child

I know that many people tell me their lives have been changed after they started giving of their means to help these orphaned and abandoned children. God loves it when we treat His special children with tender love and care.

Thank you for your help with this ministry.

May God richly bless you,

Rick Fleck

Child Portrait *continued*

house mother and father, Teddy is developing a relationship with his Heavenly Father and experiencing the joy that those loving hands can make in his life. Teddy and many other children just like him at ICC need sponsors. Will you give them a chance in life and sponsor one of them today? Perhaps you know someone who might be interested in changing a child's life through sponsoring at ICC? These children are eternally grateful for what you do! ICC can only welcome in children through your loving gifts of sponsorships and donations. Thank you!

By Liana St. Clair



Teddy's first photo at ICC

A Dream Come True

Fay, a church member in the Adventist church in Dordrecht, asked Lambro, the director of our Netherlands (IKN) office, if he had some volunteer work. Off course Lambro said yes, but he did not know what Fay could do. A few days later an idea came to his mind. Lambro remembered that Fay was an excellent dressmaker. So the next week he asked Fay about the idea to set up a repair service for clothes.

Fay liked the idea right away. In this way she could also contribute to the children. Actually in



Fay at work



Clothing repair team

truth this had been a life long dream of hers.

The IKN Clothing Repair Service started in the beginning of April. After five weeks, more than ten customers found their way to the shop. Now the IKN office has a new volunteer who likes her work very much. Others have gotten involved in this project by donating materials to make and to repair clothes.

Fay is very thankful the Lord made her dream come true and she is now a part of the ICC family.

El Salvador Tractor needed

Our project in El Salvador has a farm that helps to feed the children. Unfortunately, our farm tractor has reached the end of its useful life. The tractor is used for tilling, plowing and discing the fields as well as mowing the extensive lawns.

We are asking for your help in raising funds to acquire another tractor so we can continue to work the farm. Our goal is to raise \$8,000 to purchase a used tractor. We would also accept the donation of an equivalent tractor. The make and model of the tractor we currently have is a John Deere 855. We would need a tractor equivalent to, or possibly larger than this.

To make a donation towards this need, please mark "El Salvador Tractor" on your donation or contact Doug at ICC HQ either by phone or email.

Phone No. 800.422.7729 • Email: Doug@ForHisKids.org



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