



QUIE PASA

WHAT'S HAPPENING

A Publication of International Children's Care
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A Personal "Family" Message



[Paul and Janet Edgren visiting one of our ICC projects](#)

Paul edgren has been a valuable board member, volunteer and supporter of ICC for many years. Recently, he requested the opportunity to share some personal thoughts with ICC donors.

Before you even start reading this article I know why you're reading this newsletter: Because you care about God's needy children. I started helping ICC as a volunteer 12 years ago. It has changed my life! I've had the opportunity to spend time at nearly all of the ICC homes around the world.

I looked in the eyes of a girl about 6 years old in Sri Lanka, she had just arrived there. Over the short time I was there I saw

so much as I looked day by day in her eyes. First fear, concern and uncertainty. After a few days caution with a touch of "maybe this will be ok". And lastly hope and "could these people really care about me and love me?"

Behind each smile of a child at ICC is a broken heart. I know, I've heard their stories. My wife Janet and I love these children.

As you may probably guess ICC is also experiencing financial challenges during these bad economic times. I decided to try and help. I had a 8 acre parcel of land in a small town in northern California. I gave the land to ICC. It will be sold and the proceeds used to help change lives! I really received a blessing as I went through the process and signed the deed. I'd like to suggest maybe you too have an asset that you could donate to help ICC. We need about \$500,000. Please don't take this as an "ask". Instead I would like to offer you

—Continued on back page—

PLEASE SPONSOR ME!

My name is Carlos

I need a sponsor. I am 8 years old and live in Guatemala. Please return this coupon to sponsor me each month. God bless you for helping me have a chance.

\$30 \$60 \$_____

(800)422-7729
Sponsorship Department



A Personal Note

Dear ICC Family

It is interesting to think back over the more than thirty years of my messages to you and realize how small this project was at the beginning, actually one house and one child, and where we are today.

Our village plan, which I found in the book, Welfare Ministry, has blessed the lives of thousands of children. Even at the very beginning our adoption program was included. Permission for that was part of the license or official document we were given and which was signed by the President of the Guatemala.

Some of you may remember the story of our very first baby. A group of volunteers were at the mission school working on construction. We were finishing the first home for children at The Pines. During a visit to a nearby village with Jim and Vonnie Bechtel, a desperate mother brought her baby, who she felt was dying. "Please take her. We have already lost five children with this dysentery malady."

Some of the women in the volunteer group volunteered, "Let's take her. We can help care for her!"

When Jim told me, "I think we have your first baby," I wondered how we could do this. "We don't have a house finished yet, no place to take her."

He suggested, "Maybe we could fix up that old Rary house down on the river. You could use that until the first house is ready."

In exploring that possibility I was as anxious as anyone to try to save this baby's life, and when someone suggested that the teenage girl with the group could stay and help with her care, I decided to try. Vonnie helped me contact the nearby army doctor. We followed his orders and our little desperately sick baby began to improve.

I changed my plans to stay longer at The Pines to care for her, and after a few weeks she was well enough to take back to her family. But when I saw where she would have to live, I doubted she would survive there. Whether it was Providence or not I can't say, but while we stood talking to her parents the old symptom of the violent dysentery came back and the mother pleaded, "Please take her back!"

I realized that this baby could not survive in that little hut. I told the parents, "I'm afraid your baby is too delicate for you to care for." And I presented the possibility of finding an adoptive home for her. We discussed it at length. As we talked, the old grandma stepped up. Facing the parents she said, "You folks are being foolish. Why would you deny your baby a chance to live?"

Then I told the parents. "We'll take her back for some more treatment. You think about this, and we'll come back next week to hear your decision."

It was a heartbreaking time for them. They loved their baby, but they realized she would die without the care she needed. They had already lost five children, and the father was too sick to work. When we went back they agreed to go to the local judge and sign the needed papers.

I had a family in mind who had asked me to find a little girl for them. When all the legal steps had been taken, I personally took this beautiful baby girl, now all well, to her new family. She was so attached to me, her new parents asked me to stay with them for a few days to help her feel comfortable in her new home. She was our very first ICC baby and also the first one to be adopted.

Because we were just starting and had to build each new home at the Children's Village, as funds were available, we realized that adoption could be an option for children who qualified. We had the needed legal permission in Guatemala, but we still did not have a license in the US to do adoptions. For a few years Adventist Adoption helped us out with this, the home studies, and other legalities.

Finally, in 1988 we had our official Washington license when Ken Anderson and Ed Cotter joined our team. They had both retired from working in the State Social Service Department. I spent many good years working with them, since the licensing supervisor thought I should be the Director of our new Adoption Agency. Ed Cotter worked with us for ten years, and Ken Anderson is still with us. His expertise has been a valuable part of the ICC Children's Services Department. When I retired from active service in ICC, Sharon Fleck took my place.

For all these years we have been placing children in Christian homes. Adoption has never been a priority in decisions for our children, but it has been an option for some of the children who qualify, considering legalities, age and other factors. Our records show that we have facilitated the adoptions of 172 children.

The problem of illegal adoptions caused by unscrupulous lawyers and other officials has brought big problems to foreign adoptions. There has been a worldwide effort to curb this traffic, and the latest result in Guatemala is that any foreign adoption has to go through a government department, and this prevents the local agencies from having any input in selecting adoptive parents. In other words, the adoptable children's names are all in the government's system and they select the adoptive parents, and we would have no control over the future of our children.

Also, the regulations have changed in the US, making it much more costly and complicated to maintain a license as an adoption agency. Unless we did a large number of adoptions, it is not feasible to continue as an agency. Because of this, ICC has taken the very difficult decision of closing down our adoption program. Of course, we will continue to care for children in our children's villages, which always has and will continue to be our main focus at ICC.

Our children are fortunate that the children's villages are already established. We feel that God led us in the beginning to make them the primary focus of International Children's Care. We all know that God designed for children to have parents. When they are deprived of their biological parents for whatever reason, we feel that a home of their own in one of our villages with surrogate Christian parents is the next best option we can give them. Our goal is to provide homes as close to a real, natural home as possible. It isn't the cheapest way to go nor the easiest to maintain, but certainly the closest that we can provide to the security, love and care of a natural Christian home.

We are all part of a worldwide financial crisis, and we realize that only God's touching the hearts of generous people will provide the resources for these children, who are actually God's special children down here on earth. For more than thirty years now, God has provided through you, our ICC Family, for hundreds of children, children who have suffered losses that no child should suffer. I personally want to thank you from the bottom of my heart for all you have done.

At the top of the list of my prayers every day is "our children." I remind God that they are His children and we are just His hands and feet down here on earth to care for them. "Please don't forget them," I pray. "Without Your special help, what will we do?"

Thank you again for all you have done in the past as well as what you are doing now.

With my love and prayers,

Aleyou

Blog gives inside look at ICC

Another avenue of communication has been opened by ICC to enable us to better disseminate information of importance about ICC. We have officially become part of the blog sphere. Our blog is known as "ICC In Focus: An Insider's Look at ICC." So if you're someone who follows blogs you can follow us at <http://www.forhiskids.org/iccblog/> and read the insider's view. You will also find a button on our home page marked "ICC In Focus." Please bear with us as this blog is a work in progress. You can also subscribe to an RSS feed of the blog.

ICC In Focus
An Insider's Look at ICC

ICC ESTABLISHES CHAPTER *In Korea*

On December 22, 2008 the ICC Korea chapter hosted an impressive sponsor night on the campus of Sahmyook University in Seoul, Korea. In attendance where over 200 guests, many of whom are sponsoring the mission of ICC or who had come to find out more about ICC's work.

ICC Korea invited business owners and enterprisers to the event. During the opening ceremonies, 10 businesses signed MOU's with ICC Korea promising to donate a percentage of their NET profits to ICC Korea. This could well be the start of a very successful sponsorship program for ICC Korea as more and more businesses join in the effort to help orphaned and abandoned children.

ICC Korea was excited by this event and looks forward to increasing the awareness of ICC's programs for orphaned and abandoned children. What a huge blessing it is for the ICC family of partner offices to have ICC Korea as a growing member. Through ICC Korea's expanded efforts, it is hoped that more and more children can experience the love and security of home and family.

Vehicle Needed in Romania

Our Romanian project is currently without any reliable transportation for the children because the van we've been driving for the past ten years has become unusable and an accident has totaled the car we had been using as the van's alternative. The prices for a quality used van begin at \$10,000. Please consider any additional donation you may be able to give to help with this critical need. Designate your donations "Romanian Van" and send your check to this address: PO Box 820610, Vancouver, WA. 98682-0013.



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Family message - Continued

the opportunity to participate! If this works for you call Doug Congelton at 1-800-ICC-Pray. If this is a bad time for you then I'd ask you pray for ICC.

It's funny I would donate this land at this time. I, like almost everyone I know, have lost money in this economy. In the past when bad financial things have happened to me I have increased my giving. God has always worked things out for me. Before I ask God knows my needs.

Paul Edgren

Vice Chairman ICC Board



A Legacy of Love

*P*roviding for the future
through planned giving

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

(800) 422-7729
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