



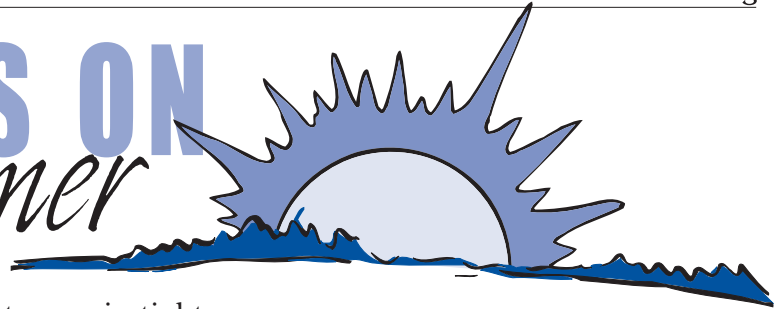
QUIE PASA

WHAT'S HAPPENING

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REFLECTIONS ON *Summer*



*There's a time each year
That we always hold dear,
Good old summer time;
With the birds and the trees'es
And sweet scented breezes,
Good old summer time,
When you day's work is over
Then you are in clover,
And life is one beautiful rhyme,
No trouble annoying,
Each one is enjoying,
The good old summer time.*

*From "In the Good Old Summertime"
by George Evans and Ren Shields*



Summer is such a wonderful time for family and friends to create special memories. And as the old song says, it's a "time each year that we always hold dear." Picnics; baseball games; camp outs; gardening; vacationing by the beach, stream or mountain. All these activities tend to weave the family fabric more tightly together.

No doubt many of our ICC family members are already enjoying the pleasures of summer with more enchantment to come. Even at our children's villages,

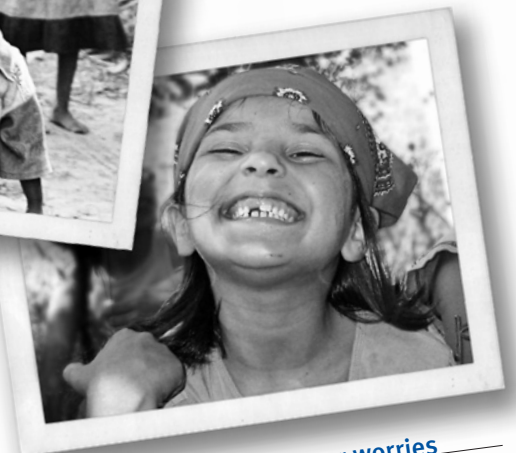
though budgets remain tight, our children enjoy the summertime or breaks from school. They have their chores to do, but when the "work is over" they'll be enjoying the "clover" of special activities planned for them.

This stands in contrast to the millions of orphaned and abandoned children who exist in this world. ICC continues to receive requests to assist children in desperate need. Though we help where possible, because of limited resources we're not able to help in all situations. These children have little thought of experiencing a

real summer vacation or even the modern staycation. They don't focus on "the birds and the trees'es and sweet scented breezes." They focus on surviving. They long to find love and security within a stable home and family.

Most of our ICC children were once like this. Their lives were not the "beautiful rhyme" depicted in the song, and their troubles were more than just "annoying." The troubles they experienced threatened their very existence until the hand of Providence brought them to live within the safe haven of an ICC children's village. Now they are blessed because they have a real home and family that you continue to make possible with your faithful support.

—Continued on back page—



A stark contrast in summer worries

What would YOU DO?

What choice would you make if you were unable to care for your infant child? Abandon your baby? Give your baby away in hopes of giving her a better life? Sell the child, or worse yet.... In poverty-stricken societies this maternal dilemma is a daily occurrence with too often tragic results. ICC's mission is to provide a refuge for abandoned children and an alternative for mothers having to make this horrible decision.

Only last month we received a letter from Désiré Murhima, our administrator in the D. R. Congo. Désiré was faced with just such a situation. Here are the events as he described them:

"It was on May 2nd, at 3:00 in the morning, when the campus guard came knocking on my door. With the guard were our village direc-

tor and the mother from house two. This small parade was at my home for a very special reason, a baby boy had been found on the campus grounds. I was told that the child was found in the brush eighteen feet from house five.

"When I first saw him he was crying and covered in an old piece of cloth. He looked to be no more than a few months old. It was cold that night and he was shivering from the exposure. We rushed him into the house and started a fire to warm him.

"Later that day we found a neighbor with a young child who was still nursing and got our new charge some



food. We don't have much milk on campus so we will have to go into Bukavu for milk.

"I have sent off letters to the local council, local leaders in the area and local religious leaders as well. We are hoping that someone will know the identity of this infant boy's mother. As yet we have not received any response concerning the boy's identity or his family.

"One of our housemothers has volunteered to care for this boy who we are calling baby Ronny."

Please pray for Ronny, his mother and his new family. Désiré will continue to look for his mother, but in the interim we will do everything in our power to care for this innocent child of God.



Reflections - Continued

There is one point of concern that ICC has during the summer months. Donation income significantly drops. As some parts of the ICC family are enjoying summer activities and summer fun, other parts are struggling to make ends meet and continue providing for the basic needs of the children. As you implement your plans for the summer, please remember the children of ICC and their needs.

Please consider what you might be able to do to make it a "good old summertime" for all.



Fun in the Romanian summer sun

Thank you!

Your response to our Vehicle and tractor needs has been wonderful! We now have the funds for a used Zambian van, our Guatemala truck and the tractor that was damaged in Nicaragua.

We would like to offer a heartfelt "Thank You" to those family members who helped us reach our goal of replacing these vehicles.

A Personal Note

Dear ICC family,

It has been twenty-four years since the day we received the urgent message that two tiny twin baby boys, born prematurely, were brought to us at The Pines. Our volunteer nurse there, Beth Platner, was doing the best she could with them, but one of them was in critical condition. The local doctor at the clinic told her, "You must get this baby to Guatemala City or he won't make it. He has a blood infection."

Arrangements were made and Beth flew in with him attached to an intravenous line, and an ambulance was waiting at the airport. Many prayers were made for him, and in a few days we knew he was going to make it. It was then that we realized we needed a center in the city for emergencies as well as other business that couldn't be done out in the jungle at the Children's Village. We brought the other little twin in and they became the first babies of our City Center, which we called the Receiving Center. The little twins were Robbie and Ronnie and they were adopted to Vicky and Rick Davies. It is interesting that I just received a graduation announcement from Ronnie, who is finishing at Walla Walla University this coming Sunday. He wants to be a dentist. I talked to Vicky today and Robbie is also pursuing his advanced studies.

The Receiving Center has been a haven for hundreds of little ones since then, some going for adoption, most to the Children's Village, and some returning to family or otherwise when their legal status was established. The government sends many abandoned babies to our Receiving Center where we have had a Temporary Shelter project to care for these little ones until a permanent home can be found for them.

We recently told about the closing of our adoption program. Now, because of the financial crisis in the world right now, ICC has temporarily suspended the Temporary Shelter program of the Receiving Center. We plan to continue to use that facility for emergency housing in the city for medical purposes, legal activity, and fundraising for the Children's Village in Poptun.

We have been working with the Children's Court to find other places for the babies and small children in our care. Six have been given into our custody and have been taken to our Los Pinos Children's Village. I have a message from Sonia Carpio, our director there, telling of their trip from Guatemala City to Poptun with the six children. It is a trip of around six hours in our van. There were many, many potty breaks along the way, and lots of questions. "Where is Poptun?" and "What is Poptun?" "Are we there yet?" They were wide-eyed with excitement and thoroughly enjoyed this new experience.

Although our homes were already full, they found places for each child. Sonia had made arrangements to put one little girl in the house with the older girls, and the other in a house with mostly girls. The girls in each of those houses wanted both of the little girls, not just one of them! One was Dina*, almost three, and the other was Beatriz, three and a half. Dina had been abandoned and was malnourished with





a serious respiratory infection when she was found. Her health is good now. Beatriz had come to us at the center when she was seven months old. She was found to have been at risk because of bad treatment by her mother. She is in good health now.

The four boys went to a house that is mostly boys. There was five-year-old Cedro who was left alone with a baby when his mother was in jail. Federico is three and a half and has been with us since he was born. Noe is five. When he was two years old, his mother left him at someone's house and never came back. He has been with us since then. Saulo is almost five. He was abandoned too, and has been with us since he was two.

Since we don't have any other real small children at the village right now, the whole campus was alive with anticipation to receive these new children. All the other children were anxious to welcome them into their homes. There was a special service in the church where they brought the new children up front. They were given a royal Welcome Home! And there was a special prayer of dedication for all of them.

This is an example of the love and dedication that children feel when they come to one of ICC's facilities. We never really know all that has happened in their young lives, but we know there are scars, at least of separation and abandonment. When they feel the warmth and atmosphere of a real home with mommy, daddy and other siblings, they soon find their place and know that they are Home.

We are hoping and praying that the finances will soon improve so we can reopen our Receiving Center and make room in all of our facilities for more children who are lost in this scary world. We want to rescue those who really need a home, and need to know the Father of the fatherless Who is preparing permanent homes in a land where pain, hunger and fear will be unknown. Thank you, each one who reads this, for your part in providing homes for children, and for understanding what it means to be concerned for the children of the world.

We need more sponsors for these special little children and for many others in our children's villages. Perhaps you can find it in your heart to help one child or maybe you know someone who would be willing to help. I know that God will bless each donation made to help His kids.

With my love,

Aleyson