



December 2009

QUE PASA

WHAT'S HAPPENING

A Publication of International Children's Care
P.O. Box 820610 Vancouver, WA 98682-0013

(360) 573-0429 • FAX: (360) 573-0491
VISIT OUR WEBSITE! www.ForHisKids.org

Thus Far...

"Thus far the Lord has helped us."

Joy and relief filled the hearts of the people of Israel. Just hours before, they had been terrified by the news of the approaching enemy, the dreaded Philistines. The prophet Samuel cried out to the Lord, and once again, the Lord proved his faithfulness by sending a loud thunder storm to confuse and rout the Philistine army. Samuel knew well the importance of recognizing God's care and protection for His people - lest they should forget.

"Then Samuel took a stone and set it up between Mizpah and Shen, and called its name Ebenezer, saying, 'Thus far the LORD has helped us.'"

1 Sam 7:12 NKJV

As the end of the year approaches and the holiday season is fully upon us, the ICC family invites you to share in this "Ebenezer Moment" as we reflect upon the blessings that God has given to us. Last year at this time, we heard the approaching sound of the enemy of any charity – the dreaded "recession." What would happen to this ministry for children? Our budgets for the children's projects were already very thin. Would we have to make

deep cuts? Would we be forced to abandon children who had already experienced that travesty?

Looking back now, we realize that ICC has struggled like many families to weather the economic tempest around us. And like a ship captain tries to lighten his load when caught in a terrible storm, ICC has tried to reduce its financial burdens as well. However, because our children's programs have fixed costs, including worker salaries, food, and education, there is no easy way to reduce expenditures without reducing program size or effectiveness.

Despite the rough waters we have traversed this year, and despite our ongoing challenges, we gratefully proclaim, "Thus far the Lord has helped us."

"Thus far the Lord has helped us."

Thus far, our children continue to have nourishing food and warm beds

Thus far, they have house parents who continue to teach them about their heavenly Father

Thus far, they continue to go to school and prepare themselves for a life of service.

—Continued on back page—

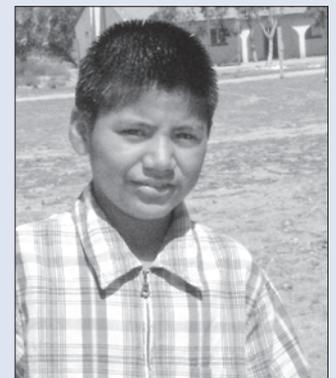
PLEASE SPONSOR ME!

My name is Sotero

I need a sponsor. I am 11 years old and live in Mexico. 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



Container Delay

Thus far, our ICC family remains intact.

“Thus far the Lord has helped us,” and He continues to work through your prayers and financial support to help us care for orphaned and abandoned children. As we face the uncertain future, we feel certain that we can count on you and the Father of the fatherless to help sustain this mission.

Thank-you for being a part of our ICC family and for all you continue to do for “His Kids.” May heaven’s richest blessings be yours this Christmas season.



Due to some unforeseen challenges, we regretfully announce that we are not going to be able to send the container to Guatemala in order for it to arrive by Christmas. We will definitely be sending the container out as soon as we are able to do so, but we have to re-schedule this shipment in order to make sure that it will go through customs in Guatemala correctly and with the least amount of delay and fees. Some of you have responded financially to this container need and we are so grateful to you for that. Because of your gifts, we will be able to send this container down after the first of the New Year. Thank you for your help with this so far, and for the help you will continue to provide as you see the needs list for that container that is published now on our website.



Once the container leaves Vancouver, and arrives at Los Pinos, we will publish the photos in the Que Pasa. What a blessing you will have provided to those wonderful children!

You will find an insert sheet of the “Items needed list” along with this Que Pasa. We will keep an updated list at our website: www.forhiskids.org/container2009.php or head to our homepage and look under “Get Involved.”

We Measure Success Differently

At ICC we measure success by the lives our children lead once they have left our care. Shridhar is one of those who has now become a young man ready to begin his own journey through life.

Both Shridhar’s mother and father died of cancer a few months apart. He came to ICC when he was about 12 or 13. While in India two weeks ago Rick Fleck spoke with Shridhar and he had this to say; “My life started at Sweet Home. I don’t remember anything about my life before coming here.” Rick also asked him

who was the most important person in his life. He said, “First God, then Mom. I found God here at Sweet Home, and Mom taught me everything that I am.”

Rick also spoke with Lilly Kaligithi, our administrator at Sweet Home and she told us that they have never had trouble with Shridhar. He had always cooperated, and he has been an excellent student. He has graduated from college with a degree in medical technology and is studying for another year to get his masters and certification. He got high scholastic achievement awards.

The day following his conversation with Rick, Shridhar returned to school to complete his masters. As he continues his journey through life with God at his side, we know that his life-changing time at Sweet Home was made possible through people like you who support ICC. Our success is your success. Thanks for all you do for “His Kids.”



A Personal Message

“There they come! I can see packages wrapped in pretty paper!” Josue jumped up and down excitedly as the children peered out the window. It wasn’t a sleigh with reindeer that caused the great stir, but an old John Deere tractor pulling a trailer piled with gifts. That is part of the Christmas celebration at the ICC Children’s Village in El Salvador.

After the tractor pulled up to the house and the brightly dressed and smiling administrator jumped down, the presents quickly made their way into the home. “Let’s see, here is a present for Natalie, one for Marcos, Susie, Vilma.” Josue’s bright eyes weren’t missing a thing, and he kept looking at the trailer and listening for his name.

“Oh, Josue! There is something here after all,” the administrator said with a twinkle in his eye.

Before coming to the ICC Children’s Village, Josue, like most other orphaned and abandoned children, had only heard about celebrating Christmas. The most he could expect was a few candies if his father was able to do even that. But even though Josue’s little heart pounded every time he experienced the excitement of opening gifts on Christmas, the thing he enjoyed most was the wonderful time together when all the children gathered to sing songs and then listen to the Christmas story of another baby that had no home. He could definitely relate to that.

The children who live in our ICC Children’s villages around the world celebrate Christmas in a variety of ways, depending on the customs in their country. For some, there are presents at the beginning of December. For others it is in January. Most have special food at Christmas, such as grapes and apples. But for all, this is a warm family time when they know the assurance of a home and the promise of a Savior and a heavenly home to come. They love to act out over and over the Christmas story of that little baby who had no home and had to sleep in a stable with the animals. The story of Jesus thrills their heart – just to know that He is now a great King in Heaven and is preparing special homes for each one of us there.

Before they came to live in the ICC Children’s Village, most of these children attached no special meaning to Christmas. I remember one Christmas Sharon and I visited some very poor migrant workers in Mexico. It was cold in that part of northern Mexico, and we saw a family gathered around a small fire outside their hut. “This is our Christmas present,” the father told us. “For one night we will be warm!”

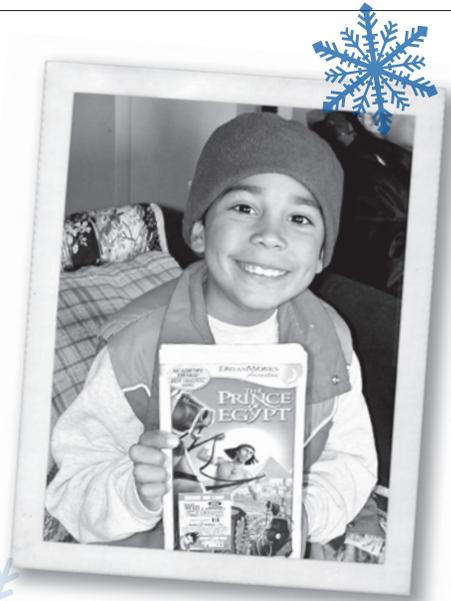
Now the story of Jesus and His saving grace is told in the ICC Children’s Villages around the world. He brings hope to the hopeless, and a promise of a brighter future.



This year ICC faces a serious budget shortfall because of the worldwide economic crisis. But we tenderly place each and every ICC child in the loving hands of Jesus knowing that He will impress faithful followers to help meet the needs of these children, the ones who are the most vulnerable and the most helpless. We know He is a Father to the fatherless, and we wait expectantly for Him to work out the complexities of this world's problems.

Thank you so much for your support of these children. May God richly bless you and your family during this Christmas season.

Rich Fleck



ICC Chairman Emeritus Passes Away

This past week, as we were preparing this issue of the Que Pasa, word came of the passing of Dr. Don Schafer. It was just a year ago that we here at ICC learned that our board chairman had stomach cancer. It seemed such an incongruous thing for someone who so enjoyed life.

Dr. Schafer was a loyal and committed supporter of "His Kids" for many years. During the eight years prior to his diagnosis of cancer, Dr. Schafer served as ICC's board chairman. In the years before that he served as a member of the board as well as the board's vice chairman. Dr. Schafer's wisdom and level-headed counsel were deeply appreciated during his service with ICC. His impromptu visits to ICC HQ just to see how things were going or to participate in our weekly worship—even while battling cancer—always had a positive affect.

The lives of literally thousands of children have been saved because of Dr. Schafer's steadfast belief in, and tireless service to, ICC and our ministry to orphaned children. Many are those who will find need to thank him for his faithful support of our children during that first great congregation after we reach Heaven. Thank you Dr. Schafer for all you've done for "His Kids."

We offer our deepest condolences to Don's wife Glenda and his surviving family. We have lost a great friend but they have lost a beloved husband, father, brother and grandfather. It has been our privilege to know and serve with Don on this life's journey. We look forward to the day when we can once again spend time with Don knowing that this time life will not end and we can eternally celebrate as one family being finally home.

