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QUE PASA

W H A T ' S H A P P E N I N G

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

Children's Village OPENS IN NICARAGUA



“We are excited to see the children adapting so quickly to their new homes. They really love the new house parents and are becoming a real family.” To me this was exciting news a few days ago from Felix, our administrator at our Fountain of Life Children's Village in Nicaragua.

In December Sharon and I celebrated with Felix and Angelica and our children in Nicaragua as we inaugurated the new Fountain of Life Children's Village. We had a ribbon cutting ceremony with the mayor of that region and with many other special visitors in attendance.

During the day the TV cameras were rolling and cameras were

clicking all over as we all celebrated the beginning of this wonderful new children's village. We are starting with four houses. Two are occupied by families of children, one is being used temporarily to house our admin-

istrative family and the other will be used as a multi-purpose building for a library, food and clothing storage and a place to have church and other meetings and social activities.

—continued on back page—

PLEASE SPONSOR ME!

My name is Bernardita

I need a sponsor. I am 8 years old and live in Nicaragua. 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



Opening - Continued

The children helped to prepare a beautiful garden area with walkways, flower gardens and benches. One of the TV reporters even asked if we were going to open up this beautiful garden to the public to enjoy!

One thing is for sure – the children are sure enjoying this new home! They have been looking forward to this for a long time



Move-in day!

while they lived in the receiving center in town. Now they have ample room to run and play. And they are helping in the gardens and farm.

Several mission groups have helped to make this possible, as well as many donors in the USA, Canada, Spain, Netherlands and Germany. On behalf of the happy kids, we want to thank each one who contributed to making this a reality. God will bless you for helping His kids!

Rick Fleck



Rick speaks at the opening

Memorials

Cliff Bickford

By Adventist Medical Center

Twila Bozeman

By Country Mobile Estates

Joanell W. Bullock

By Mr. & Mrs. Daniel Petsch
Mrs. and Mr. Margaret A. Williams

Scott Christensen

By Mr. & Mrs. Milton Christensen

Bill Fords

By Mrs. Mary Robins

Cy Hendricks

By Mr. & Mrs. Fred Smith

Robert C. Johnson

By Mrs. Jean Johnson

Jean LaFoy

By Mrs. Jeanette Nugent

Helen Link

By Mr. & Mrs. Fred Smith

Grace McFarlane

By Mr. & Mrs. Norman Knapp

Lenora C. Miller

By Mrs. Doris Reile

Orley Olson

By Mr. Bill Hay

Jere Patzer

By Mr. and Mrs. Conrad Thomas

Allie Paulson

By Ms. Nellie Davis
Mary Paulson-Lauda

Dr. Kai H. Pihl

By Loma Linda University
Mr. & Mrs. Donald Ammon

Charles Powell

By Mrs. and Mr. Ruth J. Smith

Ann Sproed

By Dr. & Mrs. Robert Sproed

Dona Strawn

By Helen Bloom
Mrs. and Mr. Beverly Brass
Mrs. William Moreau
Mr. & Mrs. Vernon Peterson
Mr. John L. Slocum
Mr. and Mrs. Jerry Snyder
Dr. Alfred Strawn
Dr. & Mrs. James Strawn
Mr. & Mrs. Don Wysong

Graduating in Guatemala

The weekend of November 27-29, 2009, was a special time for some of ICC's kids in Guatemala. Seven from the Guatemala Los Pinos Children's Village graduated from the Instituto de Capacitacion Adventista del Peten otherwise known as ICAP. ICAP is the secondary and vocational training school that is adjacent to the ICC project in Guatemala. Three

additional kids from ICC's project in Nicaragua also graduated bringing the total of ICC graduates to ten. One of ICC's kids

also received a medal for achieving the highest grades in the graduating class.

It's thrilling to observe ICC kids growing and preparing themselves for life on their

own. Congratulations to these graduates for this achievement!



Our ten graduates of 2009

A Personal Note

Dear ICC family,

It was my seventh trip to Romania. Finally we had succeeded in acquiring property for our Children's Village. I had come to attend the opening of a Receiving Center.

Kent and Jan Greve, our directors, had planned and arranged a reception and invited dignitaries from the Adventist Conference and the local government. Denzil and Donna McNeilus, whose support had helped to make this possible, were among the first to arrive. With them was Pastor Mark Finley, who was holding evangelistic meetings in Bucharest. He would be our guest speaker. We gave them a tour of the building. When they went into the nursery that was filled with cribs and a baby in each crib, they each picked up a baby. Pastor Finley sat in a nearby rocking chair with his baby for a few minutes before going on the rest of the tour.



Soon people began to arrive and the reception area was filled, many of them government officials. After the introductions, Pastor Finley was introduced as the speaker. He read the texts from the Bible about Jesus holding a little child on His lap and saying that what we do for the little children down here on earth we are doing for Him. Then he made a statement that I have never forgotten, that brought tears to my eyes. "When I visited the nursery this morning, I picked up a baby and held it in my arms. I felt like I was holding the baby Jesus." I noticed that I wasn't the only one wiping away tears.

During the years that Ken and I spent directing ICC, the verses in Psalms 68:5,6 meant a lot to me. It says that God is "A Father of the fatherless," and that "God sets the lonely in families." That means that when we help little abandoned children, we are taking care of God's special children down here on earth. When I realized that, I was sure He would be with us and provide for them. It was this concept that has given us the faith to claim His promises and to see all the miracles that ICC has experienced in the 31 years since we began with one child and one house until now when we have over 900 children in 16 countries. It is God who puts it in the hearts of people to support the program. I have never gone out soliciting money, but I do pray - a lot.

Lately, with the financial crisis and all the signs that prophecy is being fulfilled, I realize that we don't know what tomorrow will bring. But we can know that God still cares about His little children that He has given us to care for. Not only are we concerned about their physical welfare, but the most important factor is that they are learning about that God who loves them as their father. In the individual homes that become their family, the father and mother gather the children morning and evening to learn about Jesus who loves them enough to have died for them. They learn songs about Him, memorize Bible verses and hear the stories from the Bible.

When the finances tighten, we have to reduce the budgets going to support the homes, and we can't continue to take in all the children who need homes. I am concerned about those children. How are they going to learn who Jesus is and that He is soon coming to take us to our forever homes?

ICC cooperates with our Lord to "set the lonely in families." Our staff at the office implemented a new "Family Sponsorship" plan to add to the sponsorship program. It will provide a way that we each can help to sponsor a family in one of our homes in a children's village. Groups of people can go together to completely sponsor a home or to share with someone else.

I was praying about this in the wee hours of the night when the thought came to me. You just sold your motor home. You can use that money. Ken and I had loved that motor home and it was our favorite recreation, going up to the mountains or the beach. But now, I can't run around in a big motor home

alone. It was sitting in the barn. For the Oregon camp meeting this last summer, my son, Rick, took it out to the campground for me for the last time. I knew it was time to try to sell it. But motor homes are not easy to sell with high gas prices and financial problems. Ours was in good shape but 10 years old. We had some dear friends in the desert where we spent time in the winter. Rick and Carolyn Pittsenbarger had shown their friendship to me when I began coming down to the desert alone, even calling on my cell phone when I was driving down to be sure I was OK. Rick thought he had a buyer for my motor home.

But when I got back home with the motor home, I called him, and learned that the sale was off. I wondered what to do, how to go about selling it. Rick said, "Why don't you put in on Craig's list?"

"I don't even know how to do that," I told him.

"Don't worry, I'll help you" he said. "How much do you actually want for it?"

When I told him, "I'd like \$20,000."

He suggested we ask \$21,500. When he had all the information he called and said, "OK, I'm putting it on. You could get calls within five minutes."

It wasn't more than ten minutes when the phone rang. It was a man living not more than a mile away, someone I had never heard of. He wanted to come right over and see it. He said, "I see you are asking \$21,500. I have \$20,000 cash, but I think I can borrow the rest."

I had prayed for direction in knowing what to do with the motor home. Ken and I had always prayed about decisions we made and especially about finances. The man came and then asked if he could pay down on it and bring his wife that evening. I told him, "I'll hold it for you. You don't need to pay anything. And you can have it for \$20,000 cash." Could this be another miracle!

He had been watching Craig's list for several weeks, and this is just what he wanted. We made the deal that day and they brought me the check a day later. Amazingly, that was the only call I got! Ken and I had experienced over and over again how willing God is to help us when we trust Him and ask for His guidance.

In talking with my son Rick and others about our finances and the need of more sponsors, I knew I wanted to help somehow in this crisis. Maybe I could contact friends and tell them about my burden. But, thinking and praying about it one night when I couldn't sleep, I felt impressed, Why don't you practice what you preach and do something yourself? I had reasoned that Ken and I volunteered the years we had spent founding ICC. That was my share in the finances. But now, we were in a crisis. My heart is in this program. I knew that with what God had blessed me with, I could help sponsor a family with \$1,000

a month. I will be thrilled if others will share this burden with me, but whether they do or not, God has a way of multiplying what we do for Him. I was thrilled when I told a friend about my plan and she said, "I would like to do that, too."

God is the one to touch hearts. I can sleep nights now. I am putting this worry about the future of ICC and all the children who are out there alone in the world in God's hands. He can be trusted.

With my love and prayers,

Alyson

