



QUIE PASA

WHAT'S HAPPENING

A Publication of International Children's Care
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VISIT OUR WEBSITE! www.ForHisKids.org

The Place to Be

With all the organizations in the world that provide services for orphaned and vulnerable children, why should you choose to support the children of International Children's Care as opposed to another organization? The answer, at least in part, comes from a recent experience that happened at the ICC Fuente de Vida (Fountain of Life) Children's Village in Nicaragua.

ICC's project in Nicaragua was visited by the government official who is charged with monitoring and resolving human rights issues for the Nicaraguan federal government. One of his responsibilities is to supervise how children are treated in the different programs that care for orphaned and vulnerable children throughout Nicaragua.

After his visit to our campus, this gentleman stated that our program is the best program for children he has seen in all of Nicaragua. According to this government official most kids being cared for in programs such as ours look sad and don't talk much with visitors. By contrast our kids were very happy and open. He's

planning to make another visit to the children's village and bring his own family so his children can see the program for themselves.

ICC Nicaragua's Happy Children



This story highlights the goal of ICC's ministry - to give to children who have been cast aside by culture and society a real life. It's not just an existence life, but a life that includes a loving family, a home, friends, an education and a supporting community. These are life essentials, and they are part of ICC's children's programs around the world. Someone aptly said it this way, "If you were an orphan, this is the place you would want and would choose to be."

Everyone who supports ICC is literally giving a new life to each of the orphaned and vulnerable children in our care. That is why we hope you will choose to be a part of the ICC family of supporters who continue to provide for the needs of "His kids."

PLEASE SPONSOR ME!

My name is Griselda

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





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*Providing for the future
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(800) 422-7729
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A Personal Note

Dear ICC Family,

A visiting minister was preaching that day at the Desert Hot Springs Church. When I saw his name in the church bulletin I realized I didn't know him, but the name, an unusual one, seemed familiar. During the sermon, it came to me. I know now why that name is familiar. That is the name of the family who adopted little Linda (not her real name) several years ago. I wonder if this man could be related.

I had a hard time concentrating on the sermon. Little Linda's story was one I could never forget. The director of our Receiving Center had called me. "Alcyon, the Children's Court sent us a little girl today. She has been seriously abused. In fact we have never had a child with so many bruises, and one so emotionally traumatized. She has big bruises all over her body, from her face on down. But the look in her eyes was the saddest part. She was the picture of a terribly frightened and hurt little girl."

I listened to more details. As I remember she was three or four years old. I asked, "Have they given us custody of her?"

"Not yet. They just wanted to get her into a safe place for now. Also she is pale and thin, obviously a victim of neglect and hunger, too. It was hard to get close to her; she is afraid of everyone."

It wasn't long after that when I made a regular visit to Guatemala. I was anxious to see little Linda. She still was not ready to mingle with the other children. She would stand back by herself. The bruises were still very visible. I wondered, Who could do this to such a helpless little child? Although she was still fearful, she let me hold her. My heart went out to her. I told her in Spanish, "Linda, don't be afraid. You are safe now. No one will hurt you here and you will have all you want to eat."

I needed to go out to The Pines Children's Village and spend two or three weeks. When I came back into the city I was anxious to see how little Linda was doing. I was happy to see that, although she was still shy, she was playing with the other children. It was always gratifying to see how quickly children respond to love and good care. Her eyes didn't have that frightened look any more.

I don't remember just how long it was before a woman came to the center with an order in her hand from the children's judge. She claimed to be Linda's mother and wanted to see her daughter. The social worker was hesitant to bring the little girl, but an order from the court cannot be denied. She was not told who wanted to see her. But when she walked in and saw this person, said to be her mother, she screamed and broke loose from the social worker and fled back into the children's area.



[Changing lives in Guatemala](#)

There was nothing to do but send word to the court that Linda refused to see that woman. That wasn't the end of it. A couple weeks later the judge called the social worker. "The woman, claiming to be Linda's mother, is insisting on seeing her. The woman tried to blame your workers for not allowing Linda



[Changing lives in the Congo](#)

to see her. Just bring her down to my office and I will supervise the visit,” the judge directed.

So our social worker took Linda to the court, without telling her where they were going. They climbed steps up into the building, and down a long hall where her office was at the end. But, as the door opened and Linda saw that woman, she screamed again and broke away from our social worker, running back down the hall. Our worker ran after her, afraid she would keep running. But the judge was satisfied. “That’s enough. Take her back.”

We soon received the document giving her to us for adoption.

I could hardly wait for the sermon to be over. Could this minister be related to the family who adopted Linda? As I walked out and greeted him, I asked, “Did someone in your family adopt a little girl from International Children’s Care?”

“Well, we did!” He answered, and then looking closer, he asked. “Are you Mrs. Fleck?”

“I am so glad to meet you.” I told him. Tell me, how is Linda? She must be a big girl by now.”

“She is doing great. Her adjustment took a little while, but she is a joy for us. And she is in college now.” He mentioned a well-known Adventist College. “By the way, she still has the scars from the abuse she suffered.”

That encounter made my day. The rest of that Sabbath my mind kept going back to little Linda. What a change International Children’s Care had made in her life! And there are many more children who were not adopted but have grown up in one of our Children’s Villages. Many of them have graduated from college too and are making a contribution in life now. And there are others who have chosen other worthwhile ways to make a living.

I don’t know of a more fulfilling way to spend money than to invest in the lives of abandoned and orphaned children. We are told that when we do this we are doing it to Jesus Himself. There are so many children like Linda who need homes with love and security. You can help them by sponsoring a child right now, or you can sponsor a family. Thank you for your faithful support.

With my love and prayers,

Aleyon



Changing lives in the Dominican



Changing lives in India