



May 2011

# QUE PASA

WHAT'S HAPPENING

A Publication of International Children's Care  
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## CHRISTMAS *in El Salvador*

"We want something a little different this year," one of them said. "It would be great if we could have pizza and ice cream," said another.

"Ok kids, let's work on the Christmas menu, and see if we can come up with something we can all agree on," said the administrator as he sat down with them to talk about the Christmas menu. We were trying something new this time. We had created a committee of elected members from each of the houses. This committee would make a decision regarding Christmas celebrations. The committee had about nine children who would be in charge, not only of deciding the menu, but also assisting the administration to coordinate the different Christmas Eve celebrations for 2010.

Sandra, one of the employees, organized the decorating team with a group of girls. This team built snowmen, a miniature village along with its own Christmas train carrying presents, Christmas trees, and even artificial snow to give the banquet hall a real feeling of Christmas. The

tables were arranged in such a way that everybody could enjoy the program taking place on the stage. There were songs and skits relevant to the season as part of the celebration.

The administrator and the business manager worked very hard to



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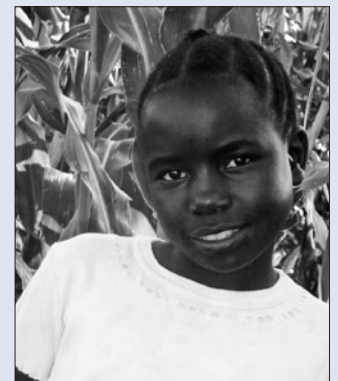
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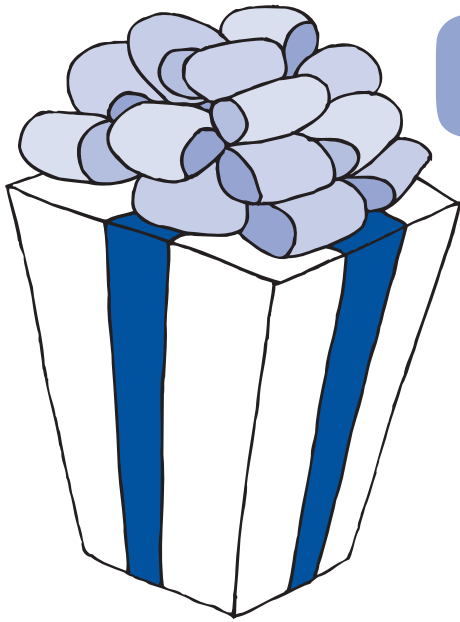
I need a sponsor. I am 14 years old and live in Congo. Please return this coupon to sponsor me each month. God bless you for helping me have a chance. *Emilia*

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# CHRISTMAS IN EL SALVADOR

## - *Continued*

have all the needed food items ready. They organized a team of employees that worked very hard packing chocolate candy, grapes and apples while they ran to town to get the pizza, grape juice and ice cream. Besides this, there were Mexican quesadillas that one of the missionaries made for everybody, and drinks prepared by each house. (All this was part of the plan developed by the Christmas celebration committee.)

It was almost time for the party to start and you could feel the excitement and anticipation in the children. When everything was ready the administrator opened the program with a small devotional and prayer, then it was time for testimonies. Many of the young people expressed their gratitude to God for having provided for them for one more year. Many of the employees joined the children in thanking God. "There is no doubt God has been so good to all of us," someone added.

The moment came. The food was served, and everyone was satisfied. Many comments were heard coming from the children. "The

pizza was so good," a little one said. "I am ready for ice cream," commented another. To close the program everyone had a toast with a big cup of grape juice in gratitude to God for His blessings. Oh how blessed everyone felt. After the program was over a frequent remark coming from the kids was, "Oh, I am so full!"

Now, while the children were enjoying their banquet, the children's services director along with Julio, one of the house fathers, snuck into each house. They went into each child's room and deposited a present on their beds. The purpose was to surprise the kids. In the past we have brought the presents by each one of the houses on a trailer pulled by the farm tractor. There is usually music and singing with the arrival of the tractor. Children wait with anticipation for the sounds of a tractor's engine knowing what it brings. This time we did it differently and the children were really surprised and well pleased.

Indeed this Christmas was different. Many comments were made by the kids about the pizza and quesadillas, but some also expressed how they missed the traditional haystacks (we traditionally have had haystacks for our Christmas dinner). Perhaps we will have haystacks next year.

The New Year celebration was full of lights and colors. We had the visit of a group of around 15 missionaries. They brought a special program to our kids for New Year's Eve. Our own young people also prepared several skits to add to the celebration. The food was just as good as it was for the Christmas celebration. The menu was a little different this time—shamburgers and French fries along with juice. Dessert was ice cream provided by the missionary group.

God gave our children the desire of their hearts, and we are very thankful to all those folks who give our children's village a special spot in their hearts. It is through your contributions that we are able to do what we do, saving lives and fulfilling dreams.



# A Personal Note

It was 1992. I had just gotten married to the love of my life, and started a new chapter in my life. One day I received a large envelope from my father-in-law. It contained two special items. One was a newsletter from an Adventist organization I had never heard of before, and the other was a sponsorship brochure. I showed the items to my wife and found out that she already knew about this organization. She was actually surprised to find out I didn't know about it. She explained to me what International Children's Care was and what it did for orphaned and abandoned children. Her parents had been supporters of ICC for many years, and as I joined the family they thought it would be a good idea to share it with me. That's how I came to know about ICC. Soon after receiving that newsletter, Jenny and I became ICC sponsors.

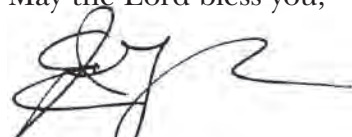
Today, I was thinking about that day and about all the things that have transpired in our lives since. I enjoyed receiving and reading the *Que Pasa* every month. I appreciated the way ICC kept us informed about the different projects. One day Jenny and I decided to contact ICC headquarters in Vancouver and see if we could do more than what we were already doing. In 2005, Jenny and I packed our bags and, along with our three children, headed for El Salvador to manage a new project ICC had just acquired from Maranatha Volunteers International. All this started with a newsletter shared with me by my father-in-law.

I have had the privilege of communicating with many of you and it is obvious that your love for our children is no less intense than mine, and I would like to propose something to you today. We would like to send our newsletter to at least 5 of your closest friends or family. We will not be asking them for a contribution--that part will be up to them. We are sure that once they know what you and I know about our children, they will also fall in love with them and want to join the family. Please use the form\* we are including in this newsletter and carefully fill out their names, addresses and/or email address and return them to us. We will simply send them an invitation asking if they would like to join our ICC family by receiving our monthly *Que Pasa*. Please remember that ICC always protects the privacy of personal information and we never give it out to anyone or any other organization.

We were looking back into history the other day and we calculated that there are over 3000 fully functional Christian adults today, most of them professionals serving God and their fellow man in various capacities, thanks to the ministry of ICC. These were children with no hope for a future, but thanks to your love and compassion they are now partakers with all of us. Help us now share this good news with others through our newsletter. We will be looking forward to getting the contact information from you and sharing the *Que Pasa* with your friends.

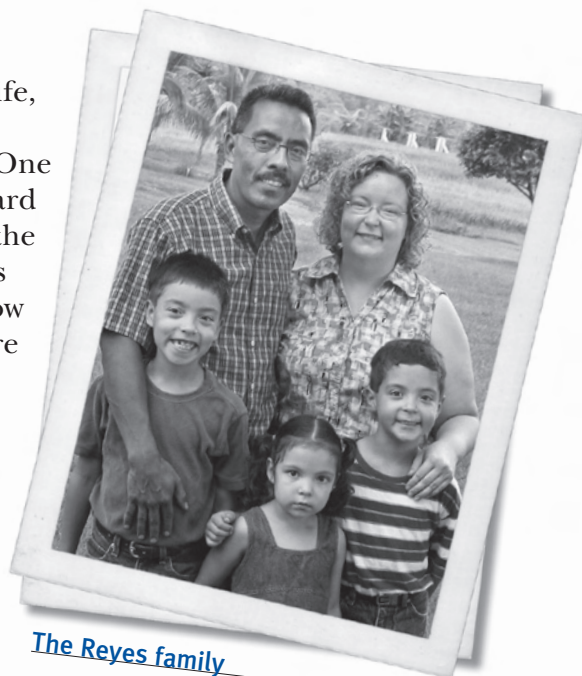
Thank you for helping be the voice of the voiceless.

May the Lord bless you,



Joel Reyes

Director of Public Relations



The Reyes family

\* You will find the form on the back of this newsletter.

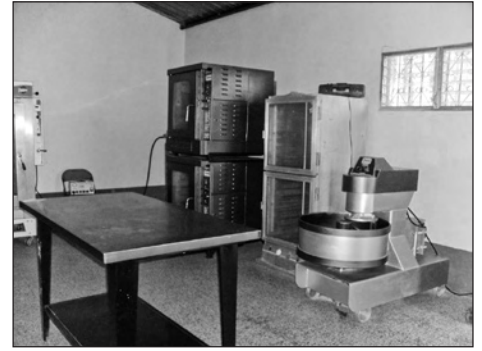
# LOS PINOS INAUGURATES BAKERY

On Monday, March 28, the children of Los Pinos children's village in Guatemala as well as staff members and dignitaries, were able to celebrate the opening of the Los Pinos bakery. The objective of this project is to produce and sell baked goods to the local market. This will provide revenue to support the program of care for children at Los Pinos.

The organization, Food for the Poor, contributed to the remodeling of the bakery building. The German Embassy in Guatemala provided funds for bakery equipment.

The German Consul, Mr. Markuz Graetz, attended the opening ceremonies. After the program was finished, Mr. Graetz asked to see more of the children's village. Before visiting the children's village, he thought there would be only a small facility for the children, and he was impressed by the size and scope of ICC's work. He was also amazed to see how the staff was using the natural resources.

Mr. Graetz was so impressed with the Los Pinos project he said he would welcome another project proposal.



 *Share with your friends  
and neighbors the ICC blessings!*

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