



# QUE PASA

WHAT'S HAPPENING

A Publication of International Children's Care  
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## Mexico Blessings!

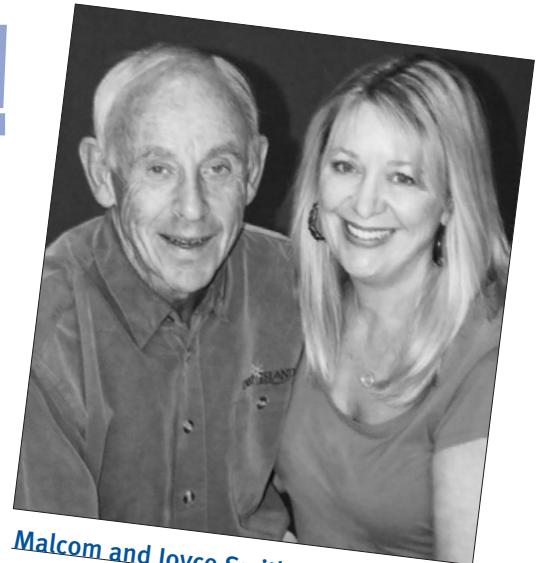
**W**henver I am able to spend time at one of our children's villages, my mind always goes to those who make life possible for our children. There are so many dedicated people in our ICC Family who care enough to do amazing things for our kids. It's always a special blessing to me when I get the chance to personally spend time with some of those people.

In June, I had the privilege to spend time with Malcolm Smith while ICC was at the Baja 500 race promoting our ICC project needs. Malcolm is a sports icon in the off-road racing community having won the Baja 1000 race six times and the Baja 500 four times. He is not only a huge icon in racing, Malcolm has an even bigger heart for the children of El Oasis. Joyce, Malcolm's wife, was not with him due to a very important engagement elsewhere at the time, but she is every bit as dedicated to what they do together for His kids in Mexico.

As Malcolm spoke to me about the children, I could see the reflection of love in his eyes that he and Joyce have for those kids, and there was no question where his and Joyce's hearts are

at. For me, it was an honor to spend those valuable moments with Malcolm listening to the Smith's thoughts and dreams for the children.

Malcolm and Joyce are both amazing people as well as long-time supporters for the El Oasis Children's Village. I remember the years when they would bring the students from Loma Linda Academy with them and take on huge projects in order to improve the El Oasis campus. I remember watching Malcolm and Joyce hard at work, long past dark as they smoothed out the multi-sport concrete pad that they had poured from individual concrete mixers. They used their car headlights for illumina-



*Malcom and Joyce Smith*

tion so that they could continue to work into the night before the concrete set up. They have also funded and personally worked on the EDU Center, all of the fruit trees around the homes, the trees

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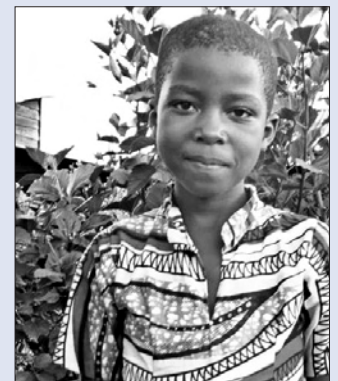
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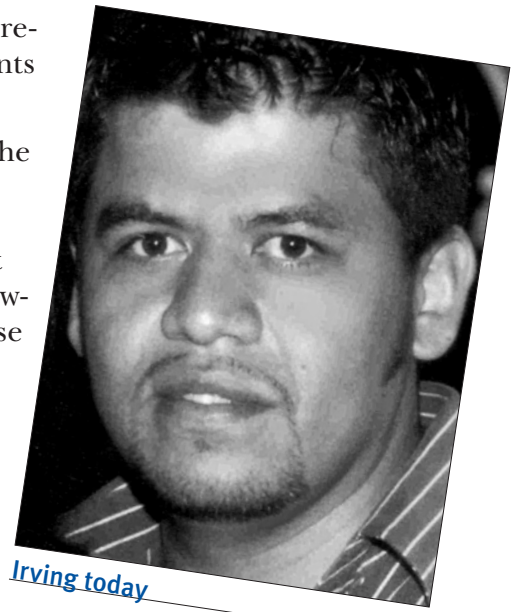


# A Personal Note

## *Giving Up, Yet Receiving Much More*

ICC's model of care features homes designed especially for the unique needs of orphaned and vulnerable children. These homes are created as much like natural homes as possible, and dedicated house parents are the focal point.

Often, house parents come to ICC with children of their own. The experience these parents have gained raising their own children often helps them effectively nurture other children as well. However, what impact does ICC have on the life of a biological child of a house parent that now must share his mama and papa with other children? The following letter at least partially answers that question. It is from Irving, whose parents became ICC house parents years ago at the ICC Los Pinos children's village.



*Irving today*

Hello...

As I start this letter, I feel a lump in my throat...Memories come to my mind of a boy who felt happy when his parents bought him a pair of rubber shoes to play soccer. They cost Q16.50 [about \$2.00]. I was in sixth grade. My childhood was very happy.

I had decided to study at ICAP in the industrial plan. [ICAP is ICC's secondary school in Guatemala, and this plan is for students who have no resources. They work one year on campus then study a year, work a year, study a year, etc.] By providential design, my parents were offered to leave that piece of heaven where we lived, our lovely house, to go and live in the unknown, to a job that was a challenge. They accepted God's will to serve Him, and they thus received the extra benefit that their children could become professionals. Thank you God, thank you parents, thank you ICC.

We travelled, and then we shared the love of our parents with ten other children. It was hard at first, but ultimately satisfying.

I graduated as a bookkeeper from ICAP...I was then able to study law at the university. Thank God I was able to finish the course, and now have the greatest challenge ahead – the board exams.

I have no way to thank you for the support that you gave me during my studies. Thanks to God, my parents and to you, soon there will be one more professional, an attorney in God's service and for Los Pinos. May God pour blessings over the work that you do with all the people that one way or another are related to Los Pinos.

Now I am working on a business that gives me the means to finish this career – the sale of computers – and I now have a desire to form a family.

Thank you – I am truly grateful. It will be a pleasure to serve in any way that I can.

Irving is grateful for the opportunities that ICC gave to him. His life was enriched as he shared his parents with other children. Now he wants to ensure that "the gift goes on" in his life. Your generous donations provide opportunities for children like Irving.

Thank-you for you continued support and interest  
in our children,



Rick Fleck  
President

# VIOLENT STORM DAMAGES

## *Las Palmas Crops*

**W**e've received some disturbing news from Mario Lora, ICC's business and farm manager at the Las Palmas Campus in the Dominican Republic. On Friday, May 27, an isolated and violent storm swept through the Las Palmas campus and caused extensive damage to the farm crops which had been growing in such abundance. Weather forecasts had not predicted the storm, and it hit the campus unexpectedly and with terrific force. According to Mario, "Its radius of action was practically in our locality and towards the mountains. In fact, the nearby city of Bonao had no damage. We understand that it affected an area of about 10 square kilometers with us in the center. We haven't heard anything about it on the news, and everyone who comes here is surprised when they see the destruction. In fact, one of the engineers in charge of the greenhouse project, when he came here was stunned because he didn't know this had happened, and he was investigating a lot to see what happened. It

was quick, only lasting about 20 to 25 minutes as a strong storm, and then the rain lasted for a long time afterward. There was no warning to prepare."

About 2/3 of the plantain crop was damaged by the heavy winds and rain that accompanied the storm. Many of the trees were laden with plantains and according to Mario, "With a few exceptions, all trees that had stalks (bunches) of plantains fell to the ground. The stalks varied a lot, from ones that were just flowering to those that were ready to harvest. Of the trees that didn't have stalks, only a very small percentage fell to the ground. We think that about 2,500 plantain trees fell over. Each stalk has about 30 to 40 plantains, which at the current market price are worth between 5 and 7 pesos, so each stalk is worth about 150 pesos [\$4.05]. When we multiply that by 2,500 trees, it comes out to a loss of about 375,000 pesos [\$10,135]. Fortunately, we were left with about 1,250 trees which will start flowering in the next three months."

The loss of the trees means more than the loss of the crop. A tree can produce several crops, plus they produce other "children" – small trees that grow up to the next generation. Mario, the staff and children at Las Palmas have quickly started the process of rehabilitating trees that can be



Damaged crops

salvaged and planting new trees. Mario states that, "when we plant a new crop it takes about 8 or 9 months to start producing." One piece of good news is that the project already has enough seeds to do the replanting, and together with rehabilitating the damaged trees, the project should be able to expand the crop. This will have to wait until the rains allow the workers to prepare the land.

Plantains are a staple crop at the children's village. This loss will greatly impact the project. Mario continues. "Of the production that we had projected, we consume almost the entire crop. What was happening at this moment was that as the plantains would get ripe we would cut them for use in the homes. They were not all ready to cut at the same time. In fact, many times we have had to cut them before they were really ready because of the needs in the homes."

One of the other important crops at Las Palmas is yucca. Mario estimated that perhaps 30% to



Recovered plantains

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# Mexico Blessings! - Continued



**Malcom and Doug discussing ICC**

on the streets of the campus, the list goes on and is long. They have made tremendous differences for His kids in Mexico.

They didn't stop there - Malcolm and Joyce have gone on to establish a foundation that raises money in order to fund the college education expenses of our children at El Oasis. In June, the very first college graduate from

El Oasis reached her dream of a college education, funded by Malcolm Smith Motorsports Foundation!

Like all ICC kids, the children of El Oasis have dreams, dreams of a future that can only be reached through education. The Smith's know in their hearts that these children are their kids too, and they work hard to make it possible for them to have a chance to realize their dreams. It is truly because of many people like Malcolm and Joyce Smith, partnering with ICC, that our children around the world are finding a port in their own personal storms. They have found a place of safety, a home to call their own

and a place where they can now dream of a real future.

Words never seem to be enough when you see the dedication of those who give so much to save the lives of our precious children. But until the day comes when you will all realize your well deserved rewards, I do want to say to Malcolm and Joyce, and to all the others just like them who have and will continue to provide loving support to these special children of ICC, "Thank you from the bottom of our hearts, and God bless you for all that you do!"

*Doug Congleton*

*ICC's Executive Director*

## Storm Damage — continued

40% was affected. Since yucca are tubers, it's difficult to say at this time what the effect of the storm may be. However, there was significant damage to the plants themselves and the tubers may rot or not develop normally.

Garden vegetables were also hit hard, and according to Mario, "everything we had was ruined." The house father and children of house 4 on the Las Palmas campus had put forth dedicated effort to supply the homes with vegetables. Mario estimates that this was valued at the equivalent of \$135 per week, so over the next 8 weeks as they wait for new crops to mature, they'll need to spend about \$1,080 to replace what was lost.

There are some bright spots in all this discouraging news. All

the children and staff escaped unharmed. Praise God for that! Also, the sweet potato, corn and pineapple crops were not damaged. As well, there is something telling about how Mario describes the attitude of the staff and children on campus. "What has impressed me the most in all this," he states, "is the good spirit that exists among the employees and the kids. We can see complete unity in order to reestablish, with God's help and our efforts, what has been damaged. We have courage to continue on as long as the Lord gives us the strength."

We're pleased to report that when the Versacare Foundation heard about this tragedy, they immediately provided a donation of \$10,000 to help with this



**Survivors of the storm**

food emergency. What a blessing this is! Additional funds are needed, and if you would like to help, please mark your donation "Las Palmas Food Fund." It will directly assist with this need.

Thank-you for your generous support.

*Kent Greve*

*International Development Director*