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QUE PASA

WHAT'S HAPPENING

A Publication of International Children's Care
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Harvest Time!



A time for rejoicing together for all those who have made the harvest possible. I just came back from Mexico and I had the privilege to be there for "The Harvest" of our kids graduating from primary and secondary school. What a blessing it was! As I sat in the church watching as these children of God achieved the goal of their first and second level of education, my mind thought of all the sponsors, the donors and those who love those children enough to provide this opportunity to them.

This is truly a time for all of YOU to rejoice in the fact that these special children

now have a hope for their lives, and an opportunity for "The Great Harvest" to come.

We are providing you with a photo montage in this edition of Que Pasa so that you can enjoy your own "Personal Harvest" as you see the children that YOU have made life possible for. I want you to feel like rejoicing in your hearts as you see the lives that you have touched with your donations. What greater investment in life is there than to see that "the Harvest" is upon us.

God bless each one of you for all you continue to do to give these kids life, and I look forward with you to the continuation of "Harvest Time" at ICC.

Erosion Damage

The challenges of establishing, building and managing our children's villages are many. Each region of the globe presents its own unique problems. At our Patmos Children's Village in the D.R. Congo, we have to deal with heavy rainfall during the 'rainy' season.

The aftermath of the heavy rains common to an equatorial country is that erosion becomes a continuing and growing problem. In 2010, our Patmos Children's Village experienced very heavy rainfall and we had significant erosion on our campus.

We've been able to recently construct the initial elements of a drainage system on our campus that will combat the runoff coming from the roofs of the homes and the hills above the campus during heavy rainfall.

The system includes rain gutters and downspouts for the homes that feed into a series of narrow



drainage canals that carry the runoff to a main drainage canal that carries the water down to Lake Kivu.

The gutters, downspouts and feeder channels were provided by a collaboration with the Dutch-based non-profit, Ellen's Children Fund. Funding for the main drainage canal came, in part, from our chapter in Switzerland.

Our drainage system is not yet complete. We need to add another

four to five small bridges over the main drainage canal to supplement the one we now have. This will allow the children and staff multiple places to safely cross over the canals as opposed to leaping if they're not near the bridge.

We need to raise another about \$4,500 to complete building the remaining four to five cross-canal bridges. Please contact ICC at 800.422.7729 and let us know what you can do to help us bridge the Patmos canals.

The latest addition

The newborn calf you see in this picture (taken just five minutes after the calf was born) came into the world on the afternoon of July 9th, at ICC's Fuente de Vida (Fountain of Life) Children's Village in Nicaragua. This newest member of the dairy herd will help our project in Nicaragua become more self sufficient. Fuente de Vida's dairy supplies milk for the children and their families with any excess production being sold to help support the children's village as a whole.

Self-sufficiency is one of the key tenets of the operation of ICC's children's villages. By doing all that they can to provide for themselves, our projects can help ensure that each dollar you donate goes as far as possible. With our projects being at least partially self-sufficient it also allows them to have a positive impact within their local community. Many of our projects sell their excess farm and dairy production for income while our project in Nicaragua was able to



donate their excess produce and milk to nearby victims of recent disastrous flooding.

A Personal Note

Agriculture – Reaping the Benefits, Weathering the Storms

The agriculture programs at ICC's children's villages are busy with activity this summer. The Fountain of Life Children's Village in Nicaragua has had its first harvest of plantains. Felix, the project director, reports that "In one month we'll be harvesting continuously, and we'll be able to sell some of the harvest – not in great quantity, but we will no longer be buying and we'll start getting some income."

This has been a very good growing season in Nicaragua. In fact, it's one of the best they have had for several years. However, some of ICC's projects have experienced severe trials with their agricultural programs recently – mostly due to weather. You may recall in last month's *Que Pasa* that we reported about the devastating storm which destroyed much of the plantain crop at the Las Palmas Children's Village in the Dominican Republic. They are working diligently to bring the farm back to full production, and we're thankful for generous donors who have helped to make up for the loss. We praise God for blessing the crops at our projects and also for helping to carry us through difficult times as well.



Agriculture is such a vital part of our ICC children's villages. It benefits the children in so many positive ways - providing a balanced diet, practical work experience, and income from the sale of extra produce. However, there are subtle benefits as well.

Imagine a young child being rescued from life on the streets. He has no concept of the safety and security of a home and family, and begging food may be how he survives. Now, place that same child in an ICC village and give him love, security and nutritious meals. Take him to the garden and patiently teach him about the ways of plants. Let him prepare the soil for planting, sow seeds, and wait expectantly for sunshine and rain. Watch him search day-by-day for the first tiny leaf to poke through the soil. Help him care for the tender plant and harvest the first fruits of diligent labor.

Then teach him about his Heavenly Father who loves and cares for him and who has a plan for him to grow and develop and bear fruit. With such therapy, an orphan child cannot help but gain a positive sense of

belonging. And when that occurs, the orphan is no longer really an orphan and can grow to his or her full potential just like a well-cared for plant in the garden.

You can see from these pictures that the plantain crop is well-cared for in Nicaragua, and we're certain that the plantain crop in Las Palmas will rebound with hard work and the Lord's blessing. ICC's children have much for which to be thankful, and because you care, we are able to care. Your investment in the children's programs of ICC enables agriculture to flourish.

On behalf of the children, thank-you for your continued support,



Kent Greve
International Development Director

A New Home In The Congo

The children of our Patmos Children's Village in the D.R.

Congo have reason to celebrate. A new home, House 7, has been completed and is now ready for residents. Twenty children will be moving into this new home immediately. Funds for the building of this home were donated by the Dutch government, a Dutch foundation and the Dutch company "De Mijl Vastgoed."

If you've been a supporter of ICC for any length of time you'll know that we normally place no more than twelve children in a home with the average being ten. The problem at Patmos is that we have more children than can reasonably be placed in our



available houses. We're building new homes as soon, and as often as funds become available, but the housing situation at Patmos continues to be a serious problem.

We need to build at least four more homes for the children as soon as possible. We are looking for individuals and organizations that would be willing to help "His Kids" by donating funds to aid us in building the needed homes for our children at Patmos.

Would you be—or is someone you know—able to help us in acquiring funds to build four more homes at our Patmos Children's Village? We know the children would be eternally grateful. Please contact ICC at 800.422.7729 to let us know how you can help.