



December 2011

QUE PASA

WHAT'S HAPPENING

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



SHARED BLESSINGS

Through this past year, you have read stories of children who have come to know our ICC family, and become a part of that amazing family. I can only assume that your heart has been touched like mine has as I have read the different situations that have brought those special children to ICC. These are children who have been chosen by God to become part of this great big ICC Family. I will always remember the story of the little girl that left ICC to go to a family member, and later was looking for her sponsor to tell him that she loved him and would never forget him. I remember because I am that sponsor as you read that short story in last month's Que Pasa. I

have always sponsored children at ICC since I have been here, but this story is one that has had an amazing impact on my life.

For me, the story of this child of God has changed me in a profound way. I have always known of the importance a sponsor holds in the life of an ICC child, but I don't think I ever fully realized the long-lasting effect that a sponsor has in the life of that child long after they have moved on in their life. I will always be grateful to God for that special lesson that He has taught me this year.

Today, there are over 800 children in our ICC villages. These children desperately need to be

able to continue to find a safe port in the storms in their lives. ICC is just that place for them, but we cannot continue to keep this fire of hope alive without your support. Each one of us here at the ICC office loves these children so much, and we know that our extended ICC family shares in that love of this family with us. We need you today to prayerfully consider your year-end giving plan. If you have been moved by a particular story of an ICC child, or you have felt a tugging at your heart to help in some way, this is the day to take care of that. I believe that this is a call from God in our lives to do what we can for His kids. Our

—Continued on back page—

They need you! - Continued

ICC kids are depending on us, and I believe that Jesus is as well.

Will you please consider giving all that you can during this special month of CHRISTmas? We have so many things to be thankful for this year. I am asking all of us in this great ICC Family if it's possible for each of us to share just a little bit of those tremendous blessings we have received with the children of ICC? I know that for me, it is a huge blessing to be able to give in whatever way is possible for these kids. I know that Jesus loves these children and that until He comes again, He wants you and me to do all we can to take care of them.

The question in my heart this CHRISTmas is: "Are we willing to share with His kids in a special way right now to provide hope to the hopeless, food for the hungry and the gift of love in the life of a child who so desperately needs it?" I know that for me, the answer is "YES!" What will your answer be this CHRISTmas?

*Doug Congleton
ICC's Executive Director*

PLEASE JOIN US! AND INVITE A FRIEND

Sunday, December 4th, 2011
2:00 p.m.

Limited Seating—Reserve Today! RSVP by November 29th

MEADOW GLADE ADVENTIST CHURCH
11001 NE 189TH ST
BATTLE GROUND, WA.

Come join us for dessert and hot cider.

COH
Circle of Hope

CIRCLE OF HOPE FUNDRAISING EVENT

Contact: Joel Reyes 1.800.422.7729 joel@forhiskids.org

INTERNATIONAL CHILDREN'S CARE

Bring ICC home for Christmas!

We have a limited number of specially-made Christmas ornaments available for purchase. The proceeds from these ornaments will be used to help with the cost of bringing the children of ICC a wonderful, memorable Christmas dinner.

Each ornament costs \$10.00 which includes shipping. Our ICC logo is silk-screened onto each ornament and the first one hundred ornaments will be individually signed by Alcyon Fleck.

Please call ICC today at 800.422.7729 or send a check to: P.O. Box 820610, Vancouver, WA, 98682; marked "Christmas Dinner Ornament." Thanks so much for all you do for "His Kids!"



A Personal Note



Merry Christmas ICC Family!

The celebration was in full swing that Romanian Christmas in 1998. Spirits were running high, and we had much for which to be thankful. God had miraculously directed ICC in the purchase and renovation of a communist cooperative farm, and over the past several months it had been transformed into a care center for orphaned and abandoned children. Only a month before, we had put into place the finishing touches and had transferred the children from the cramped facility in Bucharest to the spacious refuge in the little village of Odobesti.

We quickly realized that this new facility had opened none too soon. A few days before Christmas, a call came inquiring if we had “room in the ~~inn~~ center” for more children. A government orphanage was closing, and the children needed to be relocated. We later learned that, since the closing of the facility was imminent, more than 30 babies and toddlers had only one care-giver at a time to provide for them. One can only imagine what it must have been like to be a child in that facility. These children desperately needed more than just food and clothing. They needed loving arms to hold and rock them. Because of the generous support of ICC donors and volunteers we were thrilled to say “yes” to this request, and we welcomed many of these children into the ICC family.



House One

The children arrived shortly before our staff gathered to celebrate Christmas. What a meaningful celebration it was for us just knowing that we were able to make a significant impact in the lives of abandoned children.

While the festivities continued that evening, I slipped from the room and walked down the hallway. The children had already been tucked into bed, and all was quiet. Like a magnet to metal, I was drawn to the room where many of the new children had been placed. Quietly, I entered. The children’s cribs were pressed closely together and surrounded a large rocking chair in the middle of the room. Without turning on the light, I settled into the chair and soon was caught up in the moment. The peace and serenity in that room still speaks volumes to me. The children, who such a short time before were in desperate conditions, were now well-fed, well-cared for, and well-loved.

Not all of the children were sleeping, however. Some were sitting up in their cribs giving me curious glances. If only they could talk and recount their stories they could tell me what their lives had been like before arriving at our center. What loneliness, what untold longing for warmth and affection. Forgotten by family, cast out by the government. What child is this who could endure such?

Ah, yes. The familiar carol also asks the question, “What child is this?” And what is the emphatic answer in the song? “This, this is Christ the King!” And there in that small Romanian village, Christ had once again come at Christmas. For Jesus Himself says,



Children's Choir

“Inasmuch as ye have done it unto one of the least of these my brethren, ye have done it unto me.”

Another celebration took place recently in Romania. This time, we were recognizing ICC’s 20 years of ministry in that country. The children sang and took part in welcoming the guests. Speeches were given by a variety of individuals who have played important roles in the growth and progress of ICC’s work in Romania. What a thrill to recount the miracles and blessings of God with dear friends and co-workers!

When the program was over, I again slipped away from the crowd that had gathered to celebrate. I felt myself drawn toward the homes where our children now reside. I wanted once again to be caught up in the significance of the work ICC continues to do for children.

I stopped by the first house. To my surprise I found that most of the children from that home had also left the celebration and had returned home with the house mom. I was warmly welcomed, and the family and I sat down together in the living room. Though my Romanian language skills are a bit rusty, we talked and laughed and enjoyed a wonderful visit together. What a contrast from the stillness in that care center room so many years before. The children in this home are full of life and energy and happiness. For many years they have experienced the love and security of home and family. They are growing fruit to the glory of God and are yielding a special return on your investment in them.

The visit was brief, and soon all of us made our way back to the care center where a bountiful spread of food awaited us. But the memory of that day still lingers, and with the writing of this message, it is refreshed as is the blessing that I received that day. And if you were to browse through pictures I took during my visit and ask me, “What child is this?” I could gratefully tell you, “This, this is ICC’s child and a child of the King!”

May the knowledge of the difference you make in the lives of ICC’s children be just one of the many blessings you experience this Christmas.



bountiful spread of food

In His Service,



Kent Greve

International Development Director

P.S. Thank-you for remembering our children in your year-end giving plans. They continue to depend on your support which provides for their ongoing needs. On their behalf, I thank you.