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QUÉ PASA

What's Happening

A Publication of International Children's Care
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Thankful For You This Thanksgiving

A message from ICC's President

As the holiday season approaches, we want to take this opportunity to "Thank You" for the many ways that you have been a blessing this year!

❖ **Your prayers** on behalf of a specific child, for all the children and staff, or for the entire ICC family, provide a protective cover and allow God to work and bless in special ways.

❖ **Your letters** to ICC children and staff give encouragement and motivation to keep trying even in the midst of challenges and difficulties.

❖ **Your gifts** of support fuel this ministry to provide for the nurturing care the children need.

Your support has made it possible for the Los Pinos Children's Village to offer a safe-haven and refuge this year for children like the Ramirez siblings.

These three young children were brought to Los Pinos recently by request of the juvenile court. They had been living with their great-grandmother because other family members were unable to keep them. No reason was given as to why the great-grandmother lost custody of the children, and we can only assume it was because of her advanced age.

These children need a permanent home and a mom and a dad to love them. They need a place at the table where there will be nourishing food and the warmth of family togetherness.

These are all things we look forward to experiencing with our own families at Thanksgiving and other occasions throughout the year. And thanks to the support you give, these siblings can experience the love of a family. They are able to stay together, which is something for which they are thankful.

This thanksgiving, we are truly thankful for you and the blessing you are to the ICC family!

May God Bless You!

Rich Fleck



The Ramirez children arriving at Los Pinos. The youngest girl loves her new toy. The other two siblings hold hands. They feel unsure and cling to each other. Because of your support, these children now have a permanent home where they'll experience loving care. They now feel secure.

News from Your ICC Family Around the World

Patmos Children's Village, Idjwi Island — DR Congo

Thanks to your support, the seven children who came to us having lost their families in a devastating mud slide, have been welcomed into the ICC family in Congo.

There is much patient and caring effort that will be required to help them learn the dialect spoken at the children's village. When more information is gathered, these children will need sponsors to help provide for their care.

Please share this need with others. Maybe you or someone you know would like to sponsor one of these children. Thank you for your support of these children who have lost so much and who stand to gain so much through your generosity.



Las Palmas Children's Village — Dominican Republic

If you have visited the Las Palmas children's village in the Dominican Republic you may have experience one of the frequent power outages that plague the campus. Not only do these blackouts create inconveniences for the children and staff, they also create security risks.

However, thanks to the wonderful support of the Versacare Foundation, Las Palmas will soon have a reliable source of power through solar energy. Solar panels have been recently installed on various campus buildings. When fully operational, the solar energy project will provide enough electricity to power the entire campus. It will also create surplus energy to sell to the power grid. What a



huge blessing this is to the children and staff of Las Palmas! A BIG thank you to Versacare for this tremendous support for the children!

Myitta Gaye Har (Village of Love) — Myanmar

Several years ago, the ICC children's village in Myanmar developed a rubber plantation with the hopes that one day the funds generated would help the project to become more self-sustaining.

It takes a while for the rubber trees to produce. We're happy to report that this micro-industry is doing well. In the picture you can see the first stage of the rubber processing business. The first sale of the rubber brought in about \$2,400. What a blessing this is for the project!



My dream of becoming a nurse was going to be shattered...

Find out how YOUR support made Esther's dream come true

It's one thing to rescue a child so she can survive—to have basic needs supplied. It's quite another thing to help a child thrive by enabling her to go to school and earn a college degree. Your support has made it possible for Esther to thrive in her home country of Ghana. Here's her story.

Esther's parents did not live together. Her family were Muslim, and when her mom became an Adventist, she was disowned by her family, along with Esther and her little brother. Life was difficult for this family. Yet in spite of the hardships, Esther held tightly to her dream of one day becoming a nurse.

Those dreams were shattered when Esther's mom shattered her right leg and could no longer work. Here is how Esther describes what happened next.

"At age 9, I had to do something to support my mum and little brother, who was two years old. I followed people to their farm, usually carrying wood, food-stuff, and assisting in other activities during harvest. The farmers would usually give foodstuff in return, which we had to depend on and sometimes sell in order to save money for mum's condition and for myself, so I could return to school. But it was not enough. Things became more difficult. Other times, when there was no work for me to do and no money at home, my mum would have me boil water and pray over it when it cooled. We drank it before going to sleep.

"I started making coconut toffees and gave them to my schoolmates to sell at school for me. I would usually cry seeing them go off to school because it did hurt to be a drop-out... I remember my mum would say, 'Our Sabbath God will make a way. He will never disappoint us. He will bless us so that our own people will be amazed.' I would smile back at her, and truly God did pave a way. I found a new family—International Children's Care in Ghana...



"I met new kids and new parents and it happened to be the best family I have ever had. The parents are loving and caring, the church taught and upheld the true values of Adventism. This grew our bond as a family."

Being taken into the ICC family in Ghana was a turning point in Esther's life. Not only did she have enough food, clothing and care, she was also able to go to school. In time Esther enrolled in the nursing program at Mountain View College, an Adventist school in Ghana.

You will be pleased to know that recently Esther became the first of ICC's children in Ghana to graduate. Esther will use her degree in nursing to not only live successfully on her own, she'll be able to pay forward to her patients the loving care she received.

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When Esther's dream was shattered, she needed an opportunity, and you made it possible for her to thrive! Esther shares her heartfelt gratitude:

"Sometimes I sit and reminisce, and I cannot be grateful enough for having this family. The selfless effort to love and care for destitute kids, the concern and eagerness to make somebody's own life a better one, the annual Christmas cards and parties are everything. I cannot appreciate you enough.... It's rather unfortunate that I grew up and will have to leave this family soon. But it is worth it. You have given me the very best to be able to stand on my own and become a better person..."



Help is Needed for More Kids

Like Esther, there are many other children working hard to realize their dreams of finishing their education and living independently. There are high costs associated with this, and sadly, as the children in our villages grow older, the number of caring supporters who sponsor them often diminishes. At a time when they need it most, often there is less support. Today, please

consider helping a child to realize their dream by sending a gift of \$35 or even \$50. This would be a tremendous blessing. And remember, since our overhead costs are covered for this year, 100% of your donation goes to children's programs. Thank you for your continued support!

Bless the Children in Ghana

- * Bunk beds—[5 @ \$143/ea].....\$715
- * Mattress—[10 @ \$100/ea].....\$1,000
- * Dining chairs—[6 @ \$35/ea].....\$210
- * Gas Stove—[1 @].....\$310
- * Gas cylinders—[2 @ \$48/ea].....\$96

Needs at Other Projects

Patmos — D.R. Congo

- * Outdoor Toilet Facilities.....\$5,412
- * Agriculture Micro-project.....\$1,476

Las Palmas — Dominican Republic

- * Church Pews.....\$6,413



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When soliciting funds for a specific need, we occasionally receive more in donations than requested. In those instances when we do receive more money than solicited, those extra funds are placed in "Alcyon's Angel Fund." To protect the privacy of our children, ICC uses fictitious names in the Que Pasa when referring to minor children.