



QUÉ PASA

What's Happening

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Your Support Is Giving Back – Abel's Story

By Rick Fleck

After more than 35 years, the Las Palmas Children's Village has been needing many repairs, especially with the things made of wood, such as kitchen cabinets, closets, doors, window valences, tables and chairs. We have a small carpentry and cabinet shop in our big shop on campus which Tem Suarez and others helped to set up in the 1980's. He would come and work with the older boys building closets and drawers other things.

Other workers carried on that work for a few years, but lately the carpentry shop has not been kept up because we couldn't find someone to do that work. During a visit last year, Samilin, our



Abel Pérez grew up at the Las Palmas Children's Village in the Dominican Republic. Abel is now a math teacher and also owns a successful cabinet-making business. Abel will be producing carpentry and cabinet projects for Las Palmas.



Abel as a young boy not long after he came to Las Palmas.

administrator of Las Palmas, told me about Abel Perez, who grew up in the Las Palmas Children's Village, worked a lot with Tem Suarez in carpentry and now has a cabinet shop business on the side (he is a math teacher in a local school). Maybe he would be willing to come and help us.

Abel did come, and we became great friends. He is a wonderful young man with a family of three children of his own now. He is a successful teacher and runs a prosperous cabinet business on

the side. He was thrilled by the idea of coming back "home" to work where he spent so much of his childhood. And he wanted to make sure to inspire others who are growing up there now by teaching them some skills.

He fondly remembers Tem Suarez, who with his wife, Judy, gave so much of themselves to the children of ICC. He told me, "I would like to be the new 'Tem Suarez!'"

Here is a message he sent to me when I asked if he would be

Abel's Story—continued

willing to share a little with our ICC family:

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“For me it is a real pleasure to be able to tell my story so it may serve to help and be an example for many. I was born in Meches in 1975, a son of Christian parents – Seventh-day Adventists. My parents were extremely poor but they wanted for me and my sister Miguelina (5 years younger than me) to have a chance in life and a Christian education. So they managed to take us to the Las Palmas Children's Village. That great event was a reality in our lives on Wednesday, September 11, 1985.

“At the age of 10 and in fourth grade, I continued my studies. Mrs. Gladys Williams was the director, and Pastor Jose Ramon Bourget was the administrator. There was one teacher for all the kids in several grades. After a few months they brought in several more teachers. So we continued to study there for three years in the Las Palmas school.

After sixth grade, we studied at the nearby Dominican Adventist School for two years as external students, and I was in the dorm for two more years. After that time I went to Santo Domingo where I finished high school in 1994.

Able also has plans to help Las Palmas repair or rebuild their church's pews. The church pews are made of wood and they've seen much use. The pews are in real need of repairs with a number needing to be replaced.

Your help with repairing and replacing Las Palmas's church pews would be most appreciated. Abel plans to repair 5 pews and create new pews for those that need to be replaced. He can repair the 5 pews for \$110 apiece and make 15 new pews for only \$400 apiece.



One of the cabinet projects for Las Palmas recently finished by Abel Pérez

“During the time I spent in the Las Palmas Children's Village, I learned various skills such as growing a garden, taking care of cows, pastry making, baking, working with iron, among other things.

“For me is it a pleasure to help out, not only in the cabinets and wood working, but in all the projects that I can in the Children's Village...”

But the thing that I loved most was cabinet making. I liked that from when I was a little boy watching my father work with wood. So I enjoyed working with Brother Francisco Vargas, then Josué Casilla (in the children's village) and later Bartolomé Acosta at the Dominican Adventist School.

I was able to progress a lot in learning this marvelous craft.

“After starting a lovely relationship with the young lady Yoselin Alcala, we married and had three children — Angel, now 20, Yonsi, 14 and Jasbel, 12. My wife has her degree in marketing with a masters degree in administration of education centers. I finished my bachelors degree in education with physics and math, and now I'm working as a math teacher at a school in Nuevo Orden.

“In March of 2017, Mrs. Samilin Williams, the current administrator of the children's village, contacted me to help her prepare some budgets for some projects, and she invited me to talk with Mr. Rick and let him know the quotes. We came to an agreement that I would go to Las Palmas to do a few new projects and some repairs.”

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Abel goes on to describe his work over the next several months, when he repaired closets, made drawers, window valences, kitchen cabinets and other carpentry projects. He basically remodeled all the wood items, such as closets and cabinets, in

eight homes on campus. He concludes his story by reflecting as follows:

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“For me is it a pleasure to help out, not only in the cabinets and wood working, but in all the projects that I can in the Children’s Village,

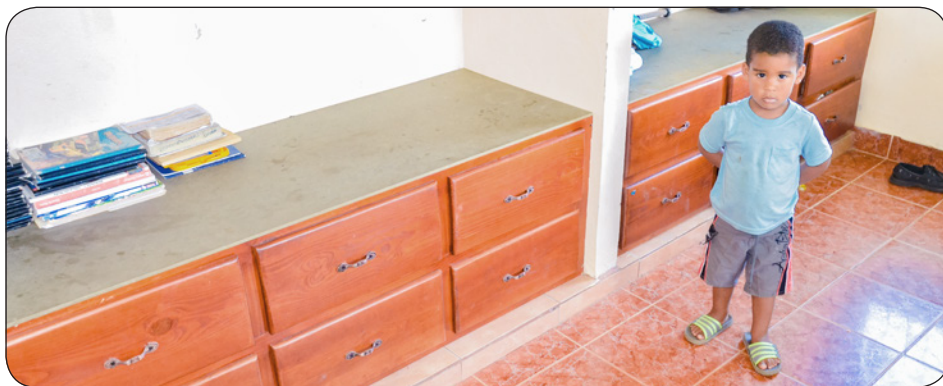
since I really feel like I am part of it. This has been one of the happiest summers of my life, although I have spent it away from my beautiful and loved family. I was spending my time contributing to a very good cause. But I also want to say thank you to each one

who gave funds so that these projects could be accomplished.

“There are still many projects to do, and we continue to pray that the resources continue to come so we can keep doing the projects that need to be finished. Among those are the church pews that are very deteriorated from the termites. We need them so that our adoration to God can be done in a calm and nice place. I am very willing to continue helping in every way that I can so that the Children’s Village is a PLACE OF HAPPY KIDS. God bless you, with love, from your son,”

Abel Pérez Vilorio

40
Years
INTERNATIONAL
CHILDREN’S CARE



A new generation enjoys the benefits of Abel Pérez’s cabinet-making skills

Thanks For Helping With The “Finishing Touch!”

Four ICC girls graduate from ICAP in Guatemala

The help you continue giving the children and young people is not only life changing — it is life-preparing. Pictured on this page are four of our young ladies who recently graduated from the ICAP secondary school in Guatemala.

Three of the girls completed pre-school education teacher training and one completed the bookkeeping program. After taking a year off from studies to work and prepare, each of the girls plans to attend university.

We refer to this part of a young person’s life as the “finishing touch.” ICC’s model of care provides for the essentials of food, shelter and nurturing care. Education is also included in this, and as the children



Because of you, these four young ladies from Los Pinos were able to receive their education and graduate from ICAP. Each will be pursuing a university education. Thank you for your support of “His Kids!”

grow, we strive to help them learn a trade, a skill or prepare for a professional career so they will be able to provide for their own care.

The help you give them means so much to them, and they are

grateful. They realize where in life they would have been, if it weren’t for kind-hearted sponsors and donors like you. Thank you for your generous support in helping to apply the “finishing touch” for these girls.

Congo Children Recovering Thanks To You!

Many have shown great compassion and generosity for the new children in ICC's care in the D.R. Congo. Thank you so very much for your support of the children! To keep you informed, here is an update on what is happening at the Patmos Children's Village.

As you recall, toward the end of last year, rebel forces overran three refugee camps in the D.R. Congo. In the aftermath, the Ministry of Social Affairs with the help of the UN military, recovered 906 children who were left orphaned or abandoned. Government officials distributed the very youngest of these children, from ages 5 and under, to our Patmos Children's Village and six other organizations. We received 24 children. These joined the seven other new children who arrived in September as result of a devastating mudslide.

The children from the refugee camps were in pitiful shape when they arrived. Traumatized. Sick. Suffering. They had protein deficiencies, typhoid, malaria, diarrhea and other severe effects of malnutrition. Some were so ill that they couldn't stand on their own. Others were nearly to the point of death. We feared that the health issues of the children were so grave that some might die despite best efforts to promote healing. We are saddened to report that one child has indeed died. Two other children have been taken to Goma for more specialized care at a therapeutic nutritional center. Thirteen of the children did not attend the



"Suffer little children to come unto Me, and forbid them not..." Because of your kind-hearted generosity, these children have been welcomed into the Patmos Children's Village and are now experiencing hope and healing. Thanks for caring for "His Kids."

New Year's celebrations due to their health issues. They had to remain in bed.

Thanks to the support from generous donors like you, the caring staff members of Patmos continue to minister to these little ones. The healing and mending process is ongoing. According to the latest report, 60% of the new children are making good progress. The others are being given the medical care and appropriate therapeutic food that they need.

It will take time to work through the details of housing, long-term care and education for all

these new children. They now live in two homes at the Patmos Children's Village. Désiré, project administrator, hired two new mothers per home and a few other persons to help provide for what the children need.

The mothers work very hard day and night caring for the children. The older girls on campus also help by washing the children's clothes. Even local church members joined in to give assistance. Pastors, elders and mothers from some of the churches in the area came with food to help the children when they first arrived.

A Note of Thanks Especially for Loyal ICC Family Members

Many of you have generously helped to provide for these new children in Congo. What a blessing you are to them and to other ICC children that you support through your financial gifts! We recognize and want to thank you for being a loyal ICC family member. The gifts you give are very much needed, are highly valued and are put to good use providing for the children.

Thank you for your kind-hearted generosity! You are a hero to children who continue to need you very much! May God bless you!