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QUÉ PASA

What's Happening

A Publication of International Children's Care
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The Impact of YOUR Support!

Editor's Note: Whether you sponsor an ICC child or faithfully contribute in other ways please know that you have an incredible impact on the lives of the children.

This can be seen in this letter from Alcyon Fleck that has been pulled from the ICC archives. Thank you for the support you continue to give to a new generation of children!

—January 1990

Dear ICC Family,

“Three little brothers were brought to us this last week,” Juana informed me when I visited The Pines. “They had been abandoned and passed around from place to place wherever someone would keep them, but no one wanted them. The people in that village were poor and already had families of their own to care for.”

“How old are they?” I inquired.

“The oldest one, Gilberto, is ten. Oswaldo is six, and the baby is two.”

Later, as we walked toward the home where the new children were, Juana informed me, “I don't know how long they have been without a home, but these children were really in pitiful condition. They were sick, malnourished and in rags. The little one is the most frail.”

The house-mother brought the boys to us. Their faces were pinched and pale. They still had the frightened expression of children who have suffered at the hands of strangers. Any new situation fills them with fear.

But the two older boys smiled shyly as we talked with them. The little one was emaciated, barely able to stand, and his big, dark eyes seemed to dominate his face.

Poor little children! I thought. Who knows what they have already suffered. My heart went out to them.

The house-mother, holding the little one, voiced her concern about their health and promised to give them the best care she could and plenty of TLC. I could see that the baby was already bonding to the mother.

That was eight years ago. The boys have grown sturdy and healthy. I talked to Gilberto when



Alcyon Fleck— Founder, ICC

I visited there a few weeks ago. Cruz told me, “Gilberto is growing into a fine, young man. He is studying at the secondary school and works in the carpentry shop. He is artistic, loves to draw and work with his hands.”

“Gilberto, do you know who your sponsor is?” I asked him.

“Yes, Mommy Fleck. She writes to me, and I have written to her. Her name is Ruth Budd.”

“Yes, I know. She lives near us. She is in a Rest Home now. I suppose you know she is a widow lady. She had an accident some time back and can't get around by herself. She never had any children,

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The Impact of Your Support!—continued

but she has been sponsoring you since you first came to us.”

“You are almost like a son to her.”

“Really!” Gilberto’s eyes brightened. “I wish I could know her!”

“Well, I know she gets lonely and loves to get letters from you.”

“Could you take a letter for me? I’ll write one today.” His face was eager.

“Of course. I know that will make Mrs. Budd happy. I’ll take a picture of you to go with it.”

This last week I took the letter, which I had translated into English, along with the picture, and visited Mrs. Budd.

Her boy had included a paper on which he had printed a special greeting in beautiful scrolled calligraphy. It said. “Felicidades a mi querida madrina.” (Happiness to my dear god-mother).

Our children call their sponsors god-parents. It was a real privilege for me to bring that special letter from the hand of that boy to the dear little lady who has been faithfully supporting and praying for him all these years. Her face beamed as I read it to her.

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Dear God-mother,

It is a special pleasure for me to write to you as I have done on other occasions, hope that Jesus Christ can bless you in your home.

The reason for this letter is so that I can be in contact with you. I have learned that you never had a son or daughter, but you have trusted me as a son, and for this I thank you very much.



Gilberto as a young boy.



Gilberto in a photo taken while he was attending a Los Pinos reunion.

I know that you are getting up in years but that you always remember and think of me. I also think of you a lot and appreciate the much-needed help you have given me.

Even if you never see me nor I see you, I have the confidence in God that He will help me to continue in His ways, and at last we can know each other in the heavenly mansions...

In my humble heart I feel a deep gratitude that I can’t find words to express. I think of some occasions when I have needed help through hard and tragic experiences...

I thank you and close with much GRATITUDE IN MY HEART.

Attentively, your adopted son,

Gilberto **Budd** Duque Lopez

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The Rest Of The Story

After completing his primary and high school education, Gilberto attended the Adventist University

in Costa Rica and then returned to Guatemala to continue his studies in architecture.

Gilberto is married now and is a devoted husband and proud father of his two children. He owns a small residential and commercial maintenance company.

According to Gilberto, “although it is not easy, I’m sure that God always has a purpose for everyone, and everything that happens in life develops us in such a way that we can face life with determination.

“And I personally thank God for people with the heart to keep this kind of work going which gives others the opportunity to help in this work and makes it possible to give the attention and care to boys and girls which, for reasons we don’t know about, can’t grow in the heart of their own family.

“But a home like these [ICC] homes can fill in and help for the wellbeing and growth of kids who then have one or many opportunities in their lives.”

Three Generations Supporting “His Kids!”

In this our 40th year, we are recognizing several of the past and present heroes of ICC. This month, we want to especially acknowledge members of the Koelsch, Shultz and Erwin families.

Alice Shultz (formerly Koelsch), was a dear friend of Alcyon Fleck, co-founder of ICC. They became close friends during their days attending Laurelwood Academy around the year 1935. As time passed, they remained friends, and when Alcyon and Ken Fleck started ICC in 1978, Alice soon came alongside to lend her assistance.

Alice loved to visit the children of ICC. She wanted to see the children up close and personal, so on several occasions she traveled with Alcyon to ICC projects. Alice loved the idea that ICC not only rescues orphan children, but we try to restore them to wholeness as well.

Writing about Alice a few years ago, Alcyon had this to say “[Alice] loved ICC—her favorite charity—and she participated in it in an especially personal way.

“As a sponsor, she supported and followed the lives of the various children she sponsored over the years.

“As a supporter, she was always quick to respond to the needs that I wrote about every month.

“As an ICC Board member, she attended nearly every meeting, and gave us welcome and sage advice. She participated in helping us send much-needed clothing and supplies to ICC projects.”



Alice Shultz visiting Las Palmas

Indeed, Alice truly did care for the children of ICC, and her caring ways and passion were passed on to her children and grandchildren. Alice’s extended family have faithfully supported ICC for many years.

As Alice grew older, she felt it was time to involve a younger generation. At Alice’s suggestion, her grandson, Cody Erwin, joined the ICC board in April of 2006. Alice and Cody served simultaneously until Alice could no longer attend.

On February 20, 2014, Alice passed to her rest after medical complications resulting from a fall. ICC lost a true hero of the children that day.

And yet, thanks to her foresight, she had chosen very well someone she loved and trusted to carry forward her vision and passion for the work of ICC.

In April of 2014, only a couple of months after Alice passed away, Cody was elected chairman of the ICC board.



Cody Erwin, ICC Board Chairman

Along with his private sector job, Cody continues to provide steady leadership to ICC as he follows in the path of his grandmother, Alice.

Speaking of his grandmother recently, Cody had this to say,

“My grandmother had a love and passion for this ministry for children, and she passed it on to the other members of her family. She always reminded us of our many blessings and how we needed to remember those less fortunate. She loved all of her ICC Children so very much. I’m pleased to be able to carry on the work that she helped to start so many years ago.”

The children of ICC are blessed by heroes like Cody, Alice and other family members who continue to provide their support for “His Kids!”

40
Years
INTERNATIONAL
CHILDREN'S CARE

Help to Restore the Life of a Child Today!

Recently rescued sister and brother, Gloria and Julio, need your help!

“Where is mommy?”

“Is mommy mad at me?”

“Why did she leave me?”

“Will she ever come back for me?”

Questions like these gnaw at the minds of children who’ve been abandoned. It’s hard for them to understand what’s happening. They know deep inside something is wrong, and they don’t know how to fix it.

Gloria, age six, and Julio, age three, know too well what it is to be abandoned. Their mother worked in a small shop in Guatemala. One day she left them with a neighbor promising that she would come and visit.

After three months, she did return, but only long enough to pick them up and take them to someone else.

Occasionally, the children would see their mother. They would ask her to take them back. But it never happened. She finally admitted that she no longer wanted them.

Eventually the juvenile court intervened and brought the children to



the Los Pinos Children’s Village in Guatemala.

Gloria and Julio have been emotionally bruised by this experience. They need the comforting and unconditional love of a family — a family who wants them and will provide for them.

When you support one or both of these children you will experience



the joy of sustaining the life of a child who desperately needs you at this time in his or her life.

These kids need someone like you to take an interest in them! Here’s how you can help —

For as little as \$1 a day, you can help to sustain the life of a child.

Your donation of \$30 helps to provide the nurturing care, food, shelter, and medicines that children like Gloria and Julio need in order to grow and develop.

Use the enclosed coupon and send in your gift today!

On behalf of children like Gloria and Julio, thank you for your support!

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Years
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You Are Cordially Invited To:
ICC’s 40th Anniversary Program

April 28, 2018 @ 3:00 p.m.

Meadow Glade SDA Church, Battle Ground WA

- ✧ Pastor Huridis Fortuna will share his story of God’s leading in his life through the ministry of ICC.
- ✧ Ken and Alcyon Fleck will be featured in a special video presentation.
- ✧ There will be Music & Memories & Munchies

Be sure to join us for this special time of recognizing God’s blessing!