



QUÉ PASA

What's Happening

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Clothed With Love

~By Makala James

All children deserve a loving family. That's why International Children's Care exists, and why people all over the world are finding creative ways to love and support "His Kids."

One woman, Rebecca Loveless, decided to start sewing dresses. The idea came to her from Colossians 3:14, *"But above all these things put on love, which is the bond of perfection."*

"I wanted to create a dress for the girls, the orphans, to symbolize them being clothed with love," said Rebecca. "For them to know how special and valuable they are, how precious they are to Jesus, and how much they are loved."

Even though Rebecca didn't know how to sew, she bought a sewing machine and quickly learned. Partners soon joined, and they named the ministry "Clothed with Love."

Since starting this initiative, they've created over 50 beautiful dresses for the girls in our villages. Even more dresses are coming.

"We're just making pretty dresses for girls to feel loved, appreciated,



Rebecca Loveless (shown with her family) has created a unique way to help the girls of ICC feel special. But first, it meant learning to sew...

and to be reminded of how special they are," says Rebecca. "There's something special about a dress. It represents putting on God's character, which includes love. It's also to be a highlight for them to wear on God's special day of worship and to realize the importance of Sabbath."

Each dress is embroidered with the words, "Made with love." In addition, each girl is given a personalized note that explains the symbolism of the dress.

In April, eleven dresses were sent to Guatemala for the young girls. One of the recipients was Renata.

"We're just making pretty dresses for girls to feel loved, appreciated, and to be reminded of how special they are."

Abandoned by her mother, Renata struggled to survive with her four siblings and her poor, but humble, father. Left alone all day while her father worked, she could only wonder, "Why? How could a mother abandon her children?" Now, Renata lives at Los Pinos, in Guatemala, where she goes to school, eats full meals,

Clothed with Love—*continued*

and is surrounded by a loving family.

When Renata received her new dress and read the note, happiness filled her face. She, with the other girls, tried on their dresses immediately, reaching out to touch the embroidery in the folds of the gown, “Estoy Vestida de Amor.” All the girls proudly wore their new dresses to church that weekend.

So far, dresses have been sent to ICC children’s villages in the Dominican Republic, Guatemala, and India. Even more are



Renata (Left) and her friends were pleased to receive their new dresses.



Here is a picture of the girls at the Los Pinos church wearing their new Sabbath dresses. Renata is at the far left in the middle row.

waiting to be delivered to little girls around the world.

Rebecca and friends have contributed so much to the happiness of these little girls. And week-by-week, as the girls wear their hand-crafted dresses, they do so with the knowledge that they are special and loved very much.

When you sponsor a child or provide support in other ways, you also show your love and care. This makes them feel special and provides a sense of security. Thank you for blessing the children through your ongoing support!

40
Years
INTERNATIONAL
CHILDREN'S CARE

Introducing Makala James

Makala has recently joined the International Children’s Care staff as Public Relations Coordinator for the Southwest region of the United States.



Makala James

Makala is available to share about the ministry of ICC with your church or civic group—especially in Texas and neighboring states. You may reach her at Makala@forhiskids.org.

Johana's Joy

Another example of the impact you make

What you do for the children is continuing to make a life-changing difference for them. And just like the growth of plants in your summer garden, the growth that occurs in a child is often subtle and almost imperceptible.

And then, one day you realize, “Wow, it’s time for the harvest.”

That’s what happens in the life of a child. There are years of love and nurturing care, of education and life preparation.

And then it happens — “The Harvest.” A life event or events take place, and the child reaches sufficient maturity to care for herself and start a family of her own. Just such a harvest has recently taken place at ICC’s Hogar Escuela Adventista (HEA) Children’s Village in El Salvador.

Johana came to the Hogar because of tragic circumstances in her life. Her father had died. Later her mother brought Johana and her siblings to the Hogar as she could no longer provide for the needs and safety of her children. Johana had just turned 5. Soon after, her mother also died.

In spite of the trauma she had experienced, Johana thrived as a member of the ICC family in El Salvador. She took full advantage of the opportunities that your support helped to provide.

She earned good grades in her studies and was an active participant in spiritual activities on the campus. As she grew older she became a deaconess and part of the women’s ministries team.

She also served as a teacher in one of the children’s Sabbath School classes.

After graduating from ECAS (the local Adventist school), Johana worked for a year on the HEA campus. Because of her great love for young children, she decided to prepare herself to become an early childhood educator.

In January 2012, she enrolled at a university in El Salvador. Once again, Johana did well in her studies and in August 2017 graduated with her degree.

Not only was it a wonderful accomplishment to earn her degree, Johana was also thrilled to be able to return home — to ECAS — to serve as the preschool teacher. But “the harvest” was not yet fully complete.

A few months later, Johana’s boyfriend, Edwin, proposed to her. This past April, Johana and Edwin were married in an emotional and lovely ceremony on the lawn outside of her home on the HEA campus.

It was a fitting culmination for Johana of years of growth and preparation, of overcoming hardships in her early life and utilizing God’s gifts and talents to bless others.

The wedding was also a new beginning — the uniting of two lives in service for children and youth. For not only is Johana the preschool teacher at ECAS, Edwin is serving as the boy’s dean.

As you can see, when the harvest comes, the returns on your investment are sweet indeed!



Johana at her graduation where she received her degree in education

Thank you for investing in the lives of young people like Johana through your ongoing support.



Johana and Edwin's wedding day

“Summer Rescue” Matching Grant

These past few weeks have brought the children a wonderful opportunity. Several members of our family of donors have provided the opportunity for you to have your donations matched dollar for dollar this summer.

The summer can be very difficult financially, and this will help us to “rescue the budgets” this summer.

These donors want this gift to be above and beyond your regular gifts.

Their desire is to do all they can — with your help — to meet the most urgent needs

and provide food to the children in these challenging months ahead.

Right now there are \$60,000 dollars available for a dollar-for-dollar matching fund.

This “Summer Rescue” matching grant for the children’s food budgets could total \$120,000 with your gifts.

Your gift given to the children will be doubled if you send it in today and mark it as “*My Rescue Gift.*”

This is a blessing that you can help provide by giving extra this month.

The children will receive the benefit of this double gift so they have a hope and a chance in this life.

What an amazing way to not only give a blessing, but also receive one for yourself!

The children thank you from the bottom of their hearts for helping with this special gift.

Doug Congleton
Executive Director, ICC

P.S. Remember to mark your gift for this matching grant as “My Rescue Gift.”

Imagine your life without the convenience of a modern, heavy-duty washing machine.

Now imagine several kids in the family and the work involved trying to keep all their clothes clean and tidy.



The children’s village Hogar Escuela Adventista urgently needs three new washing machines. These washers will help the mothers who are struggling to keep up with laundry tasks.

\$1,650 is needed to acquire 3 new washers.

Please mark your gift—“Salvador Washing Machines.”

Thank you for supporting our families in El Salvador!



A Legacy of Love

*P*roviding for the future
through planned giving

You can leave a lasting legacy
in the life of an orphan child.

Contact Doug today
for more details.

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