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QUÉ PASA

What's Happening

A Publication of International Children's Care
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An Oasis For Suffering Children

Thanks to you!

It's hard for us to imagine what it would be like living in a house full of children with only an aged grandmother trying to provide for so many.

Lidia Reyes, children's services director at the El Oasis village in Mexico, became aware of the plight of this family. Another orphanage director had called saying that the family's situation was desperate. The grandmother was old and spoke an Indian dialect. She couldn't speak Spanish and had no way to feed or care for the children properly. The director from the other orphanage said that she had rescued the girls out of this situation, but because she didn't have room for any more boys, they were left behind.

Lidia felt compelled to go and investigate the situation. Here is a report of what she found.

"I went to see the children. It was a very sad situation. They were loaned a house, but it doesn't have any doors or windows. They sleep on the floor without blankets. They don't have much to eat nor clothes nor shoes. They ate just one taco because they had no more food. They are very poor, very poor."



Thanks to support from donors like you, we were able to rescue these brothers from desperate living conditions. They have now become a part of the El Oasis family.

Lidia's heart filled with compassion. Something had to be done and soon. The need was so great, and also the opportunity to bless these boys was equally as great.

What will be the impact on these boys being a part of the ICC family? Time will tell. But when you read what happened next, you'll catch a glimpse of the difference that will be made in the lives of these boys.

"I just went to pick them up, and you can't imagine the happiness of the boys when they saw me. When they arrived here at El Oasis, they asked, 'Are you really going to love us, because no one wants us because we don't speak Spanish.' You should have seen the joy when they saw the beds. Maybe they had never had a bed. I almost cried. Then they asked, 'Do you have food, because we

haven't had any.' I think it is the first time I've gotten so emotional for them and with them. They are very content. Thanks so much for allowing me to bring them. They really needed it."

These brothers have been rescued from a life of extreme poverty. And now the restoration process is under way. Whether you sponsor a child or contribute a monthly gift, please know that your financial and prayer support will be making a long-lasting difference. You will be helping to break the cycle of poverty and will provide an opportunity for them to learn about and know their heavenly Father and the eternal life He offers them. **Contact us today about helping one of these boys — or another child who needs you! On behalf of the children, thank you for your loving support!**

Growth in Self-Sustaining Agriculture

Food is vital to the health and well-being of ICC children. Before coming to us, many of the children have dealt with hunger and malnutrition as well as worrying over when and where they'd find their next meal.

Healthy food leads to healthy kids—in both mind and body. Because of this, ICC works to develop home and community gardens to help supply the food needs of our children.

Food, if grown in large enough quantity, can also be sold to provide for other needs that the children have. We are finding that to be successful, such large, cash crops must have four essential components:

1. Resources (i. e. land, workers, equipment, etc.),
2. Technical Expertise (i.e. knowledge on how to grow large-scale, successful crops),
3. Business Expertise (Managing the entire project) and,
4. God's guidance and blessings.

Over the next two months, as your own family garden is growing, we want to feature current agricultural projects at ICC children's villages that we feel have these essential components.

While we're pleased with the potential and the progress being made so far, we encourage you to pray for God to bless these projects. We acknowledge that He is the one that makes all things grow well and grow for the blessing of the children.



El Oasis has started a new endeavor on their campus. They will be growing jalapeños as a cash crop to be sold at market. This photo is of the first planting of jalapeños.

Jalapeno Chili Farm — El Oasis, Mexico

The region where this children's village is located is known for its rich agricultural potential. Up until recently, El Oasis has not been able to fully tap into this rich resource, largely because we've not had the expertise required. We are grateful for recent developments that have changed this. Our accountant, Raul, has not only a great faith in God, but also a good knowledge of business. It's a gift he has.

Raul has become friends with Marcos who is the foreman for a large neighboring farm. Marcos is a skilled farmer. In discussions with Marcos, Raul found out that El Oasis could use some of its abundant land to raise a cash crop of Jalapeno peppers. And Marcos would not only provide his technical expertise, he would also work to help sell the produce.

Raul and Marcos developed a business plan for planting five hectares (about 12 acres) of peppers. Taking into consideration all the costs and potential sales, a conservative estimate showed it possible to realize a net profit of nearly \$80,000. Profits could exceed this even more if the growing season is longer than expected and the selling price for peppers increases.

The business plan has been approved and "seed" money has been sent and used to get the



Bags of seed purchased for the new jalapeño project at the El Oasis farm.

Growth in Self-Sustaining Agriculture

project underway. You can see in the picture to the left that the small peppers plants are already in the ground.

Some of the seed money funds were used to prepare seedlings at a commercial greenhouse. In this process a miracle occurred. Here is how Raul described what happened.

“A miraculous thing happened when we planted the little plants this week... There was enough left over that we were able to plant about 1.5 hectares (3.7 acres) more for a total of 6.5 hectares (16 acres) for the same cost. Marcos, (the engineer in charge) was amazed and was commenting that he has never seen that happen.

“We are extending the rows and adding some additional drip irrigation. That is a modest increase in cost.”

Praise the Lord! This small miracle may provide an additional \$40,000 to help the children!

Raul and Marcos have also made some small adjustments to the plan. This includes covering the rows with black plastic. This will do a few things that could increase the yield even further and provide more revenue. It will keep in moisture and protect the plants from insects. It also has the potential of extending the growing season by another month — into November. Towards the end of the year, there is more of a demand for peppers and that could increase the selling price even more.

Yes, there are many variables. Yet, there is great potential that this

crop of peppers can yield a wonderful blessing for the children of El Oasis. Please pray that God will continue to direct and bless the growth of the plants.

To this end, recently a special dedication service for this pepper crop was held on the El Oasis campus. Children, staff members, church leaders and those involved in this project gathered to ask for God’s blessings. Rick Fleck, ICC president, attended the event and was impressed by the wonderful testimony of faith he heard from those who participated. One speaker remarked, “We aren’t really doing anything. It is God who will get the credit. He is doing it all. He is making the plants grow. He is giving us strength and ability to do the work. All credit goes to Him.”

Yes, we may plant. But God gives the strength for us to plant—and He will give the increase.



Rick Fleck [left], ICC president, Pastor Cedric Arenas, a Conference director, and Raul [right] (our accountant in charge of the jalapeño industry at El Oasis), attended the dedication service.

Please pray with us that this crop of peppers will produce “exceeding abundantly above all that we ask or think, according to the power that worketh in us.” — *Ephesians 3:20*

40
Years
INTERNATIONAL
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A dedication service was held at El Oasis on behalf of the jalapeño pepper project. This cash crop will help provide financial support for the children’s village.

Matching Funds Still Available!

You still have an opportunity to double your “extra” donation for the children

At the time this issue of the *Qué Pasa* being prepared, some funds remain to be matched as part of the Summer Rescue Matching Grant. All donations specified for this campaign will be matched up to \$68,000.

This will be a huge blessing to the children during the summer months when budgets run very tight. Please take advantage of this special opportunity. Mark your donation “My Rescue Gift.”

On behalf of the children — thanks for being a double blessing this summer!

Statement of Clarification Concerning ICC Australia

You may have read recent reports regarding ICC Australia (also known as Adventure Fund Global) and their decision to cease operating.

Because we at ICC International (ICCI) and ICCA share similar names and have worked together in the past, we want to share the following information to help clarify the relationship and distinction between the two organizations.

ICCI does not have a connection to—or working relationship with—ICC Australia. ICCI is a separate entity and is in no way affected by, bound by or party to the voluntary administration proceedings of ICCA.

ICCI continues to strive to realize its mission of supporting

orphaned and abandoned children in various countries of the world.

Furthermore, there are many other entities around the world that bear the ICC name (or a similar name) and/or partner with ICCI in its mission. None of these other entities are affected by the voluntary administration proceedings of ICCA.

None the less, ICCI is concerned for the well-being of the children who reside in ICCA supported projects. ICCI has contacted ICCA and has offered assistance as a plan of action for the care of these children is developed.

Further details can be found using the following link: ForHisKids.org/iccblog/?p=1588



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