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Caring For The King In the person of "The least of these"

"Then shall the King say unto them... I was Hungry... Thirsty... a Stranger... Naked... Sick... in Prison and..."

By Kent Greve

Three-year-old Elisa needs help!

When Elisa was brought to the Las Palmas children's village in the Dominican Republic, she was hungry, sick and in desperate need of a stable family to provide the loving care she needs. Here is her story:

B ecause of a self-destructive lifestyle, Elisa's mother can't provide care for her or any of Elisa's siblings. The children have different fathers.

Sadly, Elisa's mother is in an advanced stage of tuberculosis and may not survive.

"Sick... and you visited me"

Government officials concerned about Elisa's situation, intervened and asked us to accept Elisa into the ICC family. Before doing so, our village director, Samilin, insisted that Elisa have a medical evaluation. Elisa tested positive for tuburculosis but does not have it nor is she contagious.

"A stranger... and you took me in"

After much careful consideration and prayer, Samilin agreed to accept Elisa if she would be given the proper treatment protocol. Samilin has taken Elisa to a pediatric immunologist. She is receiving the proper medical protocols to protect the other children.

"Hungry, thirsty, naked... and you gave me food, water and clothing"

When Elisa arrived, she suffered from malnutrition. Immediately the Las Palmas staff went to work providing her with food and clothing as well as water to drink and for bathing. In a short while, Elisa looked and felt much better.

Though her road to recovery may be long and her future is uncertain, one thing is certain: with the loving support of generous ICC family like you, Elisa has an opportunity now to heal both physically and emotionally.

"In Prison... and you came unto me"

Unlike most prisoners, orphan children like Elisa are innocent victims held captive by circumstances far beyond their control. Yet the shackles of poverty, abuse and neglect are very real.



If you have done it unto "one of the least of these," you have done it unto Jesus Himself.

ICC's mission is to come to visit these children, to release the chains that bind them and free them—giving them hope for the future. This is a special rescue mission in which the entire ICC family is privileged to take part.

Can you see that, in a unique sense, the orphan child fits every one of the descriptions of "the least of these" that Jesus spoke about in Matthew 25?

News from the ICC Family

God Blesses the Jalapenos at El Oasis

Thanks to God's blessings and hard work from the El Oasis staff, the Jalapeno crop at the El Oasis children's village was profitable. Along the way, God provided several miracles that turned out to be huge blessings.

First, when there was a delay in getting our seeds started at the company that provides the seedlings it turned out to be a blessing.

Even though it delayed planting, we learned that other farmers experienced a blight in their seedlings that had been started earlier. God protected the El Oasis seedlings.



Not only did He protect them, our seeds produced more seedlings than expected.

As with many vegetables, Jalapenos have several harvests. Due to the late start, the initial harvest was delayed, and the final harvests would be threatened by a killing frost.

God worked a wonderful miracle as the season neared it's close. When the killing frost arrived in the valley, all the other farmers in the valley lost their crops.

Only the EL Oasis Jalapenos and the next-door neighbor's were protected. This proved a double blessing. The Jalapeños from these later harvests were sold at about twice the price of the initial harvests — because there were fewer Jalapeños on the market.

Praise God for his loving care—for not only the children of El Oasis—but also for the little chili peppers that help to provide for their care!

Supreme Court Justice Visit's Los Pinos

As with many governments in Central America, Guatemala is under pressure from the global community to move away from institutions for children, opting rather to establish a traditional foster care system.

In contrast, the ICC model of care is based upon placing children within families in a type of managed foster care setting.

Recently an Adventist supreme court justice from Guatemala visited the Los Pinos Children's Village in Poptun. She was very impressed and said, "This is the model that works. We have it right here. Why should we spend money to send people to New York to hear about foster care? This works." Even amid such outside pressures, the Los Pinos Children's Village continues to flourish. The elementary school is operating very well under the leadership of a new principal who used to be one of the administrators at ICAP secondary school next door.

Because of where the children's village is located, agriculture has the greatest potential to provide sustainability for this project. Food grown in the Los Pinos garden provides excellent nutrition for the children. Any extra food not needed at the children's village is sold.

A new greenhouse was installed recently. This will help protect crops from damage due to bad weather and insects.



Los Pinos staff are exploring the possibility of developing a little store in the village of Poptun where farm and bakery products can be sold. The store may also feature the repackaging of bulk items like beans and rice.

Government May Send New Children to the ICC Village in El Salvador

The population of children at the Hogar Escuela Children's Village has been aging. The children are growing up, and younger children have not been referred to us because El Salvador is also

News from the ICC Family

under pressure from the global community to move away from institutions for children to traditional foster care.

However, there are positive indications from government authorities they will soon be sending us children. This is exciting news for the ICC family. Having new children, especially the little ones, breathes new life into the project.

Several months ago, the *Que Pasa* featured the modification and development of greenhouses at the Hogar Escuela Children's Village in El Salvador.



The staff are continuing to expand this project. Fifteen greenhouses are in use. The primary crops are green beans, peppers and cucumbers.

The food being produced, as well as the income generated from sale of the extra produce, is blessing the children at this village.

Grown ICC Children Return to Serve at Sweet Home in India

What a blessing it is for the ICC family when an ICC child grows up, completes his or her education and then finds a place of service that blesses others.

And it is a double blessing when that place of service is back at home, in the children's village where they were raised.

At the ICC DEWS Sweet Home Village in India we have even more of a double blessing. Two of our grown children have returned and are serving in key positions.

Nirmala is the children's services director and Udai is our financial manager. They are paying forward the support ICC family members like you have given them and are blessing a new generation of ICC children!

News and Needs of ICC Children in the DR Congo.

There are 101 children at the Patmos Children's Village and another 28 who are taking advanced education studies. This makes it the largest children's village within the ICC family. There are currently nine children's homes.

Though there's been news of an Ebola outbreak in the DR Congo, our children are not affected. Praise the Lord!

In the fall of 2017, we received many new children resulting from mudslides and rebel attacks. Those children have been with us for over a year. They're growing and making progress. We're hopeful elections will happen in the DR Congo soon. This could greatly benefit the country and bring a more peaceful environment.



An Urgent Need For The Congo Children

We've received an urgent appeal from Désiré, project administrator at the Patmos Children's Village. The children need clothes. It's been several years since we sent a container of goods, supplies and clothing to the Patmos Children's Village.

The reserves of clothing are depleted, and the project operating budget doesn't currently cover all the needs to clothe the children.

It will take some time before we're able to send another container, and in the meantime, each child needs at least one complete outfit. That includes shirts or blouses, pants or skirts, shoes and undergarments.

If you'd like to add an additional gift to your regular support and help provide clothing for the children of Patmos, please use the enclosed coupon or designate your gift for "Congo Clothing."

Thanks very much for your support for the children!

Caring For The King—continued



Elisa

The orphan is a stranger that needs to be taken in and released from the prison of poverty, abuse and neglect.

The orphan is hungry, thirsty, naked, and wearing only the clothes he or she has. And yes, many children like Elisa are sick.

When you support an orphan child, you are demonstrating not only a special kind of love for one of Jesus' children in need, you are demonstrating your love for Jesus Himself.

What a blessing for the children! And what a blessing for you! As we begin this new year, let's renew our determination to answer Jesus' call to serve Him by serving "the least of these."

On behalf of the children within the ICC family, thank you for your generous support. Have a happy and blessed new year!

Memorials

e are most grateful for your support of the children. When your gifts are given in memory of those who were very special to you, they carry a singular meaning.

To honor those who themselves made a profound impression on others, we publish these memorials as a tribute to their lives.

- In Memory of Kathy Hamby Mrs. Lillian Wysong
- In Memory of Marcella Harrom Charleen Gerlic
- In Memory of Melinda Hill Ridgetop SDA Church
- In Memory of Walter Jacques Mrs. Lillian Wysong
- In Memory of Patti Wyckoff Kendall Jim & Judy Culpepper
- In Memory of Don Killen Mr. & Mrs. James Stanley
- In Memory of Mr. & Mrs. Eugene Krause James & Karen Snyder
- In Memory of Helen Lange Mr. & Mrs. Gary Bowen Ms. Barbara A. Dinkmeier Mr. & Mrs. Raymond E. Thornton

- In Memory of Winona Letcher Sharon Turner David Letcher
- In Memory of Mildred MacManus Elder & Mrs. Ralph Watts
- In Memory of Amy-Ann Miller Mr. & Mrs. Rod Weis
- In Memory of Emma Noyes Ms. Elmina L. Johnson Ms. Taffy Johnson
- In Memory of Judy Olson Mr. & Mrs. Charles Paulien
- In Memory of William Onuska Mrs. Carol Onuska
- In Memory of Charles & Nancy Page Ms. Victoria Boland Ms. Megan McWalter SDA Church in Canada
- In Memory of Laura Roberts Ms. E. Marlene Tucker
- In Memory of Alice Schultz Ms. Sophia Koelsch
- In Memory of Olivia Szasz Mr. & Mrs. Robert Simpson
- In Memory of Margaret Tate Jim & Judy Culpepper

- In Memory of Shirley Thomas Ms. Susan South Dr. Griffith Thomas
- In Memory of Mike Thornton Mrs. Dorothy Holm
- In Memory of Olive White Mrs. Dorothy Holm
- In Memory of Bruce Wickwire Mrs. Adele Wickwire
- In Memory of Hans Calvin Wiggers Mr. & Mrs. Charles Thomas
- In Memory of Larry Williams Friend G & L2 Lord's House Ms. Jessica Holmes Mr. & Mrs. Frank Jorgensen Ms. Sharon E. Slaybaugh Mr. & Mrs. Herbert E. Weh Ms. Joanne M. Williams Mrs. Irma Williams
- In Memory of Thema Winter Mr. & Mrs. Dan George
- In Memory of Delores Wisbey Mr. & Mrs. James J. Hein Mr. Ronald M. Wisbey
- In Memory of Norma Witter Mr. & Mrs. Peter Vukshich
- In Memory of Adell Wutke Mrs. Susan Dunker