



# QUÉ PASA

What's Happening

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A Publication of International Children's Care  
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## Banana Baby Boy

*Christmas-Miracle Child Rescued Just in Time!*

If you've been a part of the ICC family for several years you are likely aware of the many tragedies that happen in the DR Congo that causing children to be orphaned.

Some of the reasons include natural disasters, acts of war, and limited access to proper medical care for even common ailments.

In most cases, when a child comes to the ICC Patmos Children's Village, the cause of the child being orphaned is known. But sometimes, as in the case of the following story, we may never know.

On the night of Christmas Eve, rain poured heavily upon an banana plantation on Idjwi Island in the Congo. Despite the storm, a quiet filled the air, as a baby boy lay abandoned among the bananas.

Fisherman discovered the child at 5:30 a.m. He could not even cry. Shaking with tremors because of the cold, the baby labored to breathe.

The fishermen rushed to warn the village chief. They had to find out who had abandoned this child! The village chief immediately ordered that the child

be taken to the Bugarula Idjwi Baptist Hospital for urgent care.

Meanwhile, the local radio station sent out a broadcast to assist in the search for whoever abandoned the child, and to alert any interested family of the baby's whereabouts. Sadly, no one came forward.

Fortunately, your support has helps to provide a haven of refuge for orphaned and abandoned children in Congo. And when no family member stepped forward to take the child home, we stepped in and welcomed him into the ICC family.

This Christmas-miracle child has no name and is simply called "Baby." Baby is now in the care of a loving family at Patmos Children's Village.

Patmos is the largest children's project operated by ICC. There are so many children in need. Yet, when God intervenes and rescues a child from death, who are we to turn that child away?

Abandoned and left to die of starvation or exposure, Baby certainly fits the description of "the least of these" for whom Jesus asked us to provide care.



"Baby" was rescued on Christmas. It was a miracle he survived. Your support is needed now to help him thrive!

Now, your support **is needed** to continue Baby's care. **You can help Baby through a monthly sponsorship or through a one-time gift of love.**

After being abandoned into the bananas, Baby received a second chance at life. Now, he's entrusted into the care of ICC, the care of his house parents, and he's entrusted into your care.

Please keep this child, and all of God's children, in your prayers. It will be exciting to see what the future holds for Baby!

## Las Palmas Industries: *Investing Your Gifts To Extend Your Support*

**O**ur ICC family of projects is working diligently to develop and expand project industries. Such initiatives not only help to provide food for the children, they also generate funds to help with operating costs.

This enables the impact of your support to stretch further! At the Las Palmas Children's Village in the Dominican Republic several industries are making a positive impact on the operation of the children's village.

### Harvesting the Sun's Energy

Through the generous support of the VersaCare Foundation, Las Palmas has been able to establish a solar energy system that supplies a steady supply of power to the campus.

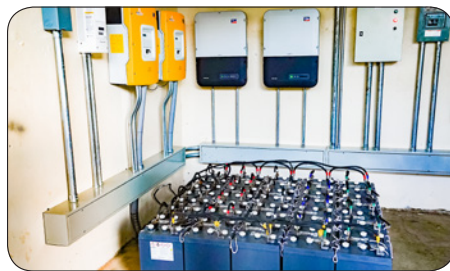


The supply of electrical power has always been a challenge at Las Palmas and there were frequent outages.

Now that Las Palmas is able to harvest energy from the sun, the children have electrical power in their homes 24 hours a day, 7 days a week.

This is a huge benefit for the Las Palmas families! In addition, solar energy has enabled Las

Palmas to have street lights for the first time! This improves the safety of the children very much.



Electricity costs have been cut by more than 50% and as the solar energy system is further enhanced, it's possible that reliance on outside electric power can be eliminated.

### Bounties from the Earth

The Las Palmas Farm has a long history of producing bountiful crops of yucca, plantain, papaya, pineapples and other crops.

Recently, Las Palmas was able to purchase a quality Massy Ferguson tractor. This reliable farm vehicle is proving to be a huge asset and blessing to the agriculture program.



In addition to the field crops, Las Palmas operates two different greenhouses that produce vegetables for the children's homes. The greenhouses allow for a controlled environment of more delicate vegetables and

increase yield. Excess is sold locally and produces income to help with the daily operations.

### Reaping a Blessing from God's Creatures

Recently, we shared with *Que Pasa* readers about "Milky's Challenge," which is aimed at growing the Las Palmas Dairy.

Thanks to the support of many within the ICC family, the herd continues to grow as donations arrive and are sent on to the project.



The goal is to expand the herd from the current 70 to 100 head. There are also plans to begin automating the milking process. This industry has such great potential to produce significant profits for the benefit of taking care of the Las Palmas children.

In addition to the dairy, Las Palmas has also been developing a fish industry. While the children are served a vegetarian diet, there is a high market demand for fish, specifically Tilapia.

The fish industry is basically three-in-one. The first and most obvious industry is raising and selling fish. Las Palmas currently has six lagoons where fish are raised prior to being sold.

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Each lagoon is about 100 meters by 50 meters. When this industry is running smoothly, a fish can grow to maturity (about 1 pound) in about 6–9 months

Las Palmas recently hired two experts to assist in maximizing profitability. These men have been working to improve the quality of the water environment, managing the density and sizes of fish, ensuring that the diet of the fish is appropriate, and finding ways to decrease the threat of predators and thieves.

Using the best practices for this industry will help ensure a higher return on the investments being made in this industry. Las Palmas has more land available for expansion and developing more lagoons for fish.

Hiring these experts has led to two additional fish-related industries: making fish food and selling small fish called “fingerlings.”

Fish food can be challenging to find and purchase in the Dominican Republic. Currently it is being imported from places like Panama. There is a high demand for this product.

Las Palmas is now developing its own fish food business for producing pellets to feed the Las Palmas fish, and to sell to other fish farms.

This fish-food business requires special equipment and will initially be quite small. It can be operated by one person in limited space.

Eventually, this fish-food industry can be expanded further, including being housed in its own building.



This images shows one of the six lagoons now on the Las Palmas campus used to raise fish that will be sold to market. The income from this fish industry helps to offset the monthly expenses of caring for the children.

In order to have a profitable fish industry you need to have fingerlings to start each batch of fish. The supply of fingerlings in the Dominican Republic is limited, making them difficult to find as well.

So, for our own purposes we started a fingerling industry for our own needs and for selling to other fish farms.

This involves breeding fish to collect the eggs and then nurturing

them until they hatch and are ready to sell or transfer to our own Las Palmas lagoons.

Diversifying the fish industry into these other two subindustries should help to increase not only efficiency but also profitability.

This in turn will help to sustain the Las Palmas Children’s Village, which then stretches the impact of your support further. What a blessing this is!

### ***Fish Industry Matching Grant***

If you’d like to expand your support of the ICC children even further with an additional gift, there is a matching grant challenge for the Las Palmas fish industry, thanks to a generous donor.

Currently there is nearly \$13,000 available in matching grant funds. Not only can you double your donation by supporting this industry, you will also help Las Palmas to become even more self-sustaining. This matching grant will further extend your gifts!

“... go to the lake and throw out your line. Take the first fish you catch; open its mouth and you will find a four-drachma coin. Take it and give it to them for my tax and yours.” *Matthew 17: 27*

Be sure to designate your donation as “**Fish Industry Matching Grant.**” Thank you, and may your contributions continue to help ICC kids become “fishers of men!”

# Christmas 2018 Revisited

## Christmas Matching Challenge Update

*Yes, you've done it again!*

In December one of our faithful ICC donors stepped forward to challenge you to match their gift.

And yes, you've done it again by not only matching the \$50,000 challenge, you've exceeded it! These funds,

along with all the other gifts given by our faithful ICC family members at the end of the year have been such a blessing!

We finished 2018 strong thanks to the kind generosity of our ICC family. On behalf

of the children whose lives you've touched in a special way during 2018 and here at the start of 2019, thank you very much!

May God bless you as you have blessed "His Kids!"

## You Made Christmas 2018 Memorable for His Kids

**"For unto us a Child is born, unto us a Son is given..."**  
*Isaiah 9:6*

In a very real sense, the ICC family has been given very special children. We believe that Jesus entrusts these children to us so we can be His guardians to care for them and teach them about Him.

And there's no better time to do that than at Christmas. Christmas is one of the most special occasions at ICC

children's villages around the world. Your contributions, especially to the gift fund, help to make this a memorable time for all the children.

Here are some pictures sent from Guatemala and El Salvador that show some of the decorations and programming from their special celebrations during the recent holiday.

Thanks to your support, the children had a wonderful time of family togetherness,

sharing, gift giving and most importantly, remembering Jesus, God's most precious gift.

Thank you for helping to make these celebrations possible.



When soliciting funds for a specific need, we occasionally receive more in donations than requested. In those instances when we do receive more money than solicited, those extra funds are placed in "Alcyon's Angel Fund." To protect the privacy of our children, ICC uses fictitious names in the Que Pasa when referring to minor children.