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QUÉ PASA

What's Happening

A Publication of International Children's Care
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UPDATE: CONGO

Rescued Children Safely at Patmos Children's Village

"...We all have a divine mission to save the souls and the bodies of children that God sends us. God did not give that talent to everybody; that is why we need to be thankful [to Him] for having chosen us to fulfill such a hard task."

Desire Murhima, ICC's director in Congo

In the aftermath of rescuing newly orphaned children, Desire made the statement above. If you read the letter from last month, you recall how dangerous it was for him just to make it to these children whose parents had been viciously murdered by insurgents.

And when he did arrive, he found there were 18 additional orphans. What a hard task — to decide on the fate of orphans in crisis. Yet, Desire puts it well. "We have a divine mission to save the souls and bodies of children God sends to us." He determined to take all 59 orphans believing he would have your support and that of the world-wide ICC family.

Praise the Lord! Desire and the children arrived safely at the Patmos children's village on Idjwi Island. In a message that Desire sent he stated the following: "If I knew before the situation on the ground (in the rebel-controlled area), I could not accept to go

there. This convinces me that it was evidently the good will of God to save the children."

Once the children arrived, the ICC Patmos family set about making them feel welcomed in their new surroundings. But as you can imagine, taking in 59 children at one time has stretched the resources and facilities of Patmos children's village. Haircuts, bathing, dressing, feeding, and watching over these little children is challenging, but it's these initial important acts of care and concern that give these children important messages:

You are loved.

You are safe.

You will be taken care of here.

Your faithful support is helping to fulfill the divine mission of rescuing and restoring the lives of these children.

Funds have been sent to help provide for some of the basic up-front costs required to set up areas of



care for the children. These are needed until permanent places can be made available within a Patmos home. It's cramped now as the children must squeeze into temporary quarters. But they are fortunate to be safe and on a pathway to restoration — thanks to your support!

Additional funds will be needed in the months ahead to help

El Oasis Jalapeno Project Growing Again

“Behold, a sower went forth to sow...” And some seed “fell into good ground, and brought forth fruit, some an hundredfold, some sixtyfold, some thirtyfold.”
Matthew 13:3,8

As reported in the *Que Pasa* late last year, the El Oasis children’s village in Mexico has established a successful agricultural project of raising Jalapeno peppers.

El Oasis has ideal soil and conditions for growing this crop. And with its proximity to the U.S. and its hungry market for Jalapenos, it all combines to create a wonderful opportunity to raise funds to sustain the El Oasis mission for orphan children.



Just one of the Jalapeño peppers from last year’s crop at El Oasis. This year’s crop is expected to be bigger and better. You make this success possible.

Last year, despite several challenges and learning experiences, the Lord blessed the Jalapeno



In May of 2019 this ceremony was held at the El Oasis farm to bless and consecrate the current crop of Jalapeños and Tomatillos.

crop. Building on the knowledge gained, the El Oasis staff have established a robust plan to nearly triple cultivation. This will mean about 50 acres of not only Jalapenos, but also Tomatillos.

The seeds were purchased during the winter and were taken to a nursery that specializes in germinating seeds. In the photo on the next page you can see a small packet of Jalapeno seeds and a bucket of Tomatillos seeds. It may be hard to believe, but one pound of Jalapeno seeds costs about \$2,000!

We praise the Lord that the germinating process went very well! In fact, it’s typical that seeds germinate at a rate of 90–95%. The El Oasis seeds achieved a rate of more than 99% which meant

there were more seedlings to plant than expected.

To accommodate this extra blessing, the El Oasis workers quickly set about preparing more land complete with drip irrigation.

The plants are in the ground now and are continuing to grow towards maturity where we anticipate, with God’s blessing, they will produce a bountiful harvest that will bless ICC’s children.

The growth of these plants is a wonderful metaphor for what is happening in the lives of the children on the El Oasis campus.

They come to us as tiny seeds. And because Jesus paid for the salvation of each of these children, they are very valuable.



These Jalapeño seedlings are well on their way to becoming a prime pepper product.

El Oasis Jalapeno Project Growing Again

The potential for these children is huge —just like the potential crop of Jalapenos that lies inside the little bag of seeds is worth many times more the investment.

And just as the Jalapeno seeds need consistent, nurturing care, so do the little children. That's why your partnership in this ministry is so critical. Because your support enables missionary caregivers to provide the care these tender souls need to grow to maturity.

And then, think of those mature children as mature plants, bursting with the Fruit of the Spirit and primed to serve God and their fellow citizens.

In a future *Que Pasa*, you'll be able to read about some of our older El Oasis children who came as little children and who



On the left are the packets of Jalapeño seeds used to create the seedlings that will become peppers at the farm at El Oasis in Mexico. One pound (16 oz) of Jalapeño seeds can cost \$2000 bucks! On the right is a bucket of Tomatillo seeds. It's your continued support that makes the farm at El Oasis an ongoing success.

are nearly completed with their education. They will soon be paying forward the investment you have made in them.

If you would like more information on ways you can get involved with this agricultural project at

El Oasis, please contact Doug at ICC (800-422-7729). This project needs tractor implements, equipment and supplies. Also, ask about a matching grant that is available where you can double your support. Thank you!

Amazon Smile Supports ICC Kids

Do you enjoy the convenience of shopping online? If so, you can support ICC's mission for children by using Amazon's special weblink: smile.amazon.com. You will find the same Amazon interface, and you will have access to the entire Amazon selection of products. What's special is that Amazon will donate a portion of the price of eligible purchases to ICC! It's easy to sign up! Just follow these steps:

How to shop AmazonSmile:

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Thank you for your added support of the children when you shop smile.amazon.com!

Update: Congo – continued

provide caregivers, food, and possibly even another house. The care of these children will add almost \$14,000 per month to an already tight budget. You can use the response coupon and help by:

- ✓ Sponsoring one of these new children,
- ✓ Making a one time or recurring gift for Patmos Children's Village to help with monthly operating costs,
- ✓ Praying for the new children in these important first few weeks of care.

Thank you for helping to make this divine mission possible!



Children Thriving At Sweet Home

During a recent visit to the Dews Sweet Home children's village in India, Rick and Sharon Fleck took the opportunity to participate with the children in various activities.

They helped to purchase supplies for the children to create special greeting cards for their sponsors. They also observed

one of the staff members create a tasty snack for the children using an outdoor cooking fire.

Susan, the director of this project, is recovering from a medical emergency. In her absence, two of the older children from Sweet Home, Udai and Nirmala, are leading out in the day-to-day operations.

Since they grew up at Sweet Home, they both have a good understanding of the issues the children face as well as a great measure of compassion for them.

What a blessing it is for the children to have such dedicated young people who are looking after them during this time of need!



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.