



QUÉ PASA

What's Happening

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Rays of Sunshine in India



Shanta (left) and her sister Priya experienced much tragedy before moving to DEWS Sweet Home. Your support can help provide a "ray of sunshine" in their lives. THANK YOU! (*Photos blurred to protect the identities of the children.)

Like most sisters, Shanta and Priya have enjoyed each other's companionship and have experienced much of life together. Sadly, they have also experienced the pains of death together as well. Several years ago, their mother died due to a lung infection and tuberculosis. Soon after, tragedy struck again when their father died.

It was fortunate that the two little girls were not separated after the death of their parents. Their grandmother took them in and provided for them until she became too old

and could no longer give them the care they needed.

Desperate for food, clothing and shelter, the girls asked for assistance at the elementary school in India where the ICC Sweet Home children attend. They were referred to Sweet Home, and because of the support of faithful donors like you, they soon became a part of a loving family – together still. They are bright young ladies and are adding rays of sunshine on the Sweet Home campus. But they will need your support now and into the future to have the ongoing care they need.

Speaking of rays of sunshine...

We recognize and appreciate the continued support of the ICC family of sponsors and donors.

YOUR generosity is a true bright spot in the lives of the children who have had their own share of challenges during the worldwide COVID pandemic.

In India, there have been extreme lockdown measures, curfews, and sometimes the staff have only been allowed out on the street to go to the store or bank for a few hours a day. Even though the ICC family in India has been hunkered down during the pandemic, there have been abundant rays of sunshine spread throughout the campus by the older children. Many of these students are taking medical training and had to return to campus to take their university studies online.

These older children have been paying forward the support that you have given them by helping around the campus and being excellent role models to their younger brothers and sisters on the campus. Here is a spotlight on a few of them:

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Karunakar is just finishing his final year of nurses training. During the pandemic, he was a ray of sunshine to the younger children by educating them on social distancing, hand washing frequently with soap and water especially before meals, steam inhalation, use of masks and sanitizing door handles and maintaining cleanliness of their surroundings. He also helped cook all three meals per day and lead out in worship services with the boys in their home. He shared God's love and encouraged them to pray for family members that were suffering with COVID. He encouraged the children to remember the ICC family and their sponsors in their personal prayers, too.

Divya, Preethi, and Poornima

are all attending nursing school together. Divya and Preethi are starting their second year and Poornima is starting her third year. During the pandemic these three girls returned to Sweet Home to take their classes online. While home, they had ample time to be a ray of sunshine to the younger children by using natural healing and prevention methods. They were able to teach proper cleaning practices and hygiene to minimize the spread of the virus. Poornima was especially instrumental in encouraging the young girls to have faith in God. She also conducted group prayers.



Ashok is starting his second year of medical school. When the pandemic hit India, he was not able to return to Sweet Home. He called often to check up on his brothers and sisters and mentioned that he was praying for the ICC family for their safety from the Covid-19 pandemic. Ashok provided a ray of sunshine by staying connected with his Sweet Home family. Sharon Fleck, ICC Children's Services Director, had this to say about these older children. "I am really proud of our young people at Sweet Home in India. ICC was able to help these young people when they needed it when they were young. We then saw them helping others on campus during the pandemic, and they envision themselves helping others when they have completed their education. That is a reason that some have chosen nursing. You as sponsors and donors have helped these young people accomplish their dreams of becoming nurses and even a doctor. Thank you very much for your support."



Your Help Needed to Keep the Sun Shining!

Shanta and Priya have experienced tragedy first hand.

- The death of their mother and father,
- The declining health and capacity of their grandmother,
- The hunger and privation that compelled them to seek help.

It's not been long since they became a part of the Sweet Home family. And they will need ongoing, long-term care. They have nowhere else to turn. Would you be willing to sponsor one of them or another child in need?

Or would you be willing to give a one-time donation or set up a recurring gift to help support the

children at Sweet Home? This new generation of children has such wonderful potential to follow in the paths of their older "siblings" who are excellent role models for them. They just need your help. Please, be ray of sunshine to them by designating a special gift for their care today. Thank you!

Q&A with ICC President – Part Two

Rick Fleck continues his ministry update

Q: Can you share a recent story that demonstrates how God is blessing the ICC children?

A: Here is a simple one that demonstrates how it can come from any direction. Our partner in Germany had money that they had raised for a special project at the Los Pinos children's village in Guatemala. They asked what they should use it for.

Just about the time we needed to figure that out, we received a request from Los Pinos saying that one of the refrigerators in a home had broken down. They couldn't repair it anymore, and they desperately needed a new one. The amount that our German partner had to give was almost exactly what this refrigerator costs. To me that seemed significant. Even the little things like that helped me realize, "Wow, the Lord really helped!"

Q: What are some of things that impress you the most about ICC's family of supporters?

A: There are several components of the ICC family that make it fascinating and that impress me in different ways. First of all, we have supporters who have been with us from the very beginning, such as founders and people located close to our office. But, over the years, this family of supporters has grown. We have supporters all over the United States, in Canada, in Europe, and Asia. And they all have this intense passion: they love children, and they love people. It inspires me because I see this love, and it inspires and improves my own walk with God.

The other facet is the ICC family of supporters who live in

the countries where we have children's projects. This includes the children themselves who have now grown up and have their own families. It's exciting to see them become an ICC supporter. And they love it. They tell me, "This is great, and I like doing this." Some of them sponsor children. Some of them even get together and do things for the children.

For example, in the Dominican Republic some of our older kids who are now independent get together once a year and put on a nice Christmas program for the children. They organize a party, give the children presents, and have a great time with the kids. This ICC family of supporters has gotten to be really big, and it's fascinating to be a part of it. God is really blessing that family.

Q: If money were not an issue, how would you go about expanding ICC's ministry to help more children?

A: I really don't think that money is the issue. I don't stress about the money. I'm concerned that we follow God's plan and His leading. I believe that if He leads us to help more children, in the same country or in a different country, then He will provide the funds for that. It's up to us to follow His leading and guidance.

Q: When you think about the future of ICC, what do you imagine?

A: The first thing I think about is when we are in Heaven and we're meeting around Jesus' feet with all these kids and they're all talking

about what a wonderful thing it is that they're in Heaven. We talk about this with the children when we go and visit, because the children know that there are projects in other countries. We tell them stories about the other countries. Children in the Dominican and Guatemala love to hear stories about children in Africa. And the children in Africa love to hear stories about children in Guatemala or Mexico or somewhere else.

I think over the years, as long as we are on this earth, I would like to see more of that unity and more of this family spirit. Because these children have been deeply injured in their early lives in ways that we can't even understand. But as we bring healing to them, part of the healing is this sense of family. Being a part of ICC's worldwide family is something that is really important to them.

Kids really like the concept of sponsorship in ways that maybe we don't understand sometimes. Their own families, for reasons completely out of the children's control, weren't able to take care of them. And maybe in some cases they didn't even love them. And yet, within the ICC family there are people who are reaching out to them and loving them and showing them love in different ways. That is part of the healing process for them.

We invite you to watch a special video interview featuring Rick Fleck that is part of "The Gathering Place" video series. Watch it with the QR code or type:

[InternationalChildrensCare.org/
TheGatheringPlace](http://InternationalChildrensCare.org/TheGatheringPlace)

*Watch The Gathering Place
Ep. 6: Q&A with Rick Fleck*



Is Your Church an ICC Partner for Kids?



Rick Bowes (left), ICC Director of Donor Relations, and Rick Fleck (Right), ICC President, speak at the Las Palmas SDA Church in Dominican Republic. Would your church be willing to engage in orphan ministry, and to partner with churches around the world to help set children free?

A little boy in church for the first time watched as the ushers passed around the offering plates. When they came near his pew, the boy said loudly, "Don't pay for me, Daddy, I'm under five."

It's a good thing churches don't charge children an admission fee! Instead, churches in-tune with God's heart set children free.

It is beautiful to think that you, as a member of God's body, are investing in children and setting them free. If you are a member of a local church, it is also delightful to think that your local church is investing in its children. Has your church partnered with an organization like ICC to reach out to children beyond its "Jerusalem" into the "ends of the earth?" (Acts 1:8). When Jesus said, "It is not the healthy who need a doctor, but the sick" (Mark 2:17), was He thinking about people hurt by sin, including abused and neglected children around the world?

A number of churches like yours have partnered with ICC to help their members live out "true and undefiled religion," which includes caring for orphans. Partnership is as simple as a loving donor-like you-being a

connector between your church and children in need. As someone who is investing in children, a donor can inform the pastor of ICC's work and supply the church lobby or the church newsletter with updates about the children. This can lead the church to motivate others to support children in need. Maybe you can have the *Que Pasa* newsletter posted on your church bulletin board!

Visit: InternationalChildrensCare.org/churchpartner to learn more about how churches partner with ICC to invest in "His Kids." Watch the story of the Castle Rock, WA, church, and see how they are touching the lives of vulnerable children. Maybe your church can engage in this kind of ministry?

To get involved, email ICC's church representative, William Hurtado, at william@forhiskids.org to get on the list of people who are connectors for kids. Your investment of time will help your local church set children free!

Please Join Us for Prayer!

You are invited to join your ICC family in united prayer at our weekly ICC Prayer Connection every Thursday morning at 9 a.m., PST. Hosted by Rick Bowes, ICC Director of Donor Relations, the thirty-minute prayer session begins with a brief conversation about current happenings within the ICC family.

Then, Dale McCluskey, a long-time supporter of ICC children, leads out in a special time of prayer. All participants are invited to join together in united prayer, acknowledging God's power and bringing forward the specific prayer needs of that day.

This ICC Prayer Connection takes place over Zoom each week. To

join the live event, go to Zoom.com and enter the Meeting ID: 957-814-8727; Password: iccpray. You won't want to miss this special opportunity to gather together in God's name and in God's presence.

There is a beautiful, and for many a familiar, promise found in Matthew 18:20, "For where two or three are gathered together in my name, I am there among them."

This week, with your ICC Family, claim and act upon the promise of Matthew 18:20 on behalf of orphaned and abandoned children at the ICC Prayer Connection. Thank you for all you do to bless the children.



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(800) 422-7729

DougC@ForHisKids.org

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.