



QUÉ PASA

What's Happening

March 2021

A Publication of International Children's Care
P.O. Box 820610 Vancouver, WA 98682-0013

(360) 573-0429 • (800) 422-7729
VISIT OUR WEBSITE ForHisKids.ORG

From Orphan to University Graduate, Thanks to YOU!

Through the generous support of ICC family members like you, ICC's Patmos Children's Village has been a haven of refuge for hundreds of orphan children as conflicts continue to ravage the DR Congo. Michelline and Aline are two of the children who have grown up and thrived within the loving care that you help to provide.

All the children who become part of ICC's family have tragic stories of why they were orphaned. Sadly, many of the children were so young when they lost their parents that they don't even remember them. Micheline and Aline's parents were either killed as part of the civil unrest in the DR Congo or were forced to join the army and were never heard from again.

When these girls became a part of the ICC family in the DR Congo several years ago, they very much needed a loving family to provide for them – including food, clothing, medical attention, education, and loving care. Part of that loving care included sponsors who not only provided financial support, but also fostered a positive sense of well-being.

Within the Patmos Children's Village, the girls grew and



When these two girls, Michelline (left) and Aline (right), joined the ICC family in DR Congo as children, they very much needed a loving family. They needed food, medical attention, education, loving care, and much more. Your support helped to provide that to the girls. Now, they are grown and soon to graduate from university.

developed and thrived. And now, many years later, they have achieved something very special – a university degree.

Recently, as part of the final requirements, Micheline and Aline had to sit and defend their research papers. You would have been so proud of them. And in this culture, how important it is for young ladies to realize this achievement! And You have helped to make this possible through your support!

Patmos director, Desire had this to say about the two girls:

“God has never ceased to perform miracles for His children. We are extremely happy to realize that ICC as a humanitarian organization is changing the needy people's lives. When we admit children whose health present alarming signs of deterioration and see them
Continued on page 2

From Orphan to University Graduate, Thanks to YOU!



Michelline (left) and Aline (right) are two children who have been blessed by the "Finishing Touch" program that you help to provide. This is a program that prepares children to live independently. On behalf of these children, THANK YOU!

Continued from page 1

becoming great, we need to sincerely thank God for that endless love and mercy upon us and the children.

The children begin their kindergarten education, primary school, secondary school and professional training; we are so thankful for that, and we are addressing our thanks to ICC and its sponsors.

Today, two of our daughters completed their professional training...They are ready to integrate [into] normal life like any other human being. May God bless ICC, its donors and lengthen their lives."

Over 70 children are within the portion of ICC's program we consider as "The Finishing Touch." These children have lived in ICC homes, have worshiped in ICC

churches, and have studied in ICC schools. Now they are enrolled in university studies or vocational training programs.

This finishing touch is just as essential as their "growing up years." It is a preparatory and transitional time for them. But as you well know, there are often higher costs associated with this. But if we did not provide this finishing touch for them, what would be the cost to these young lives not only in this life but possibly even for eternity?

Please, while this newsletter is in your hand, won't you consider giving a generous gift on behalf of the older children who are preparing to live independently? Please mark your gift as "Finishing Touch." You'll be happy to know that 100% of your gift will go directly to help children like Micheline and Aline. On behalf of these older children, thank you very much for your generosity!

Praying for the ICC Family

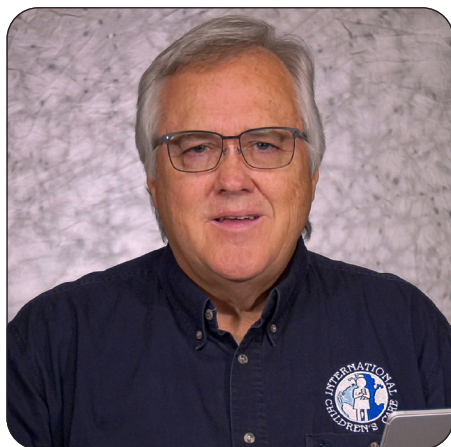
From January 25-30, prayer warriors across the world joined together to lift up the children, and each other, in prayer. This year's world-wide week of prayer focused on the ICC family. That includes orphan children, donors, house parents, administrators, educators, and more! In addition, the meetings included a feast of music performed by the children. More chances to connect and pray virtually are coming soon. In the meantime, the children will continue to pray for you, just as they know you are praying for them.



The children's villages provided videos of the kids singing, playing musical instruments, and even reciting scripture to be played during week of prayer. These videos were played over Zoom. Thank you for making it possible for the children to have joy and music in their lives! (Photo blurred to protect the identities of the children.)

Q&A with ICC President – Part One

Rick Fleck shares a ministry update and word of appreciation



Rick Fleck, ICC President

Q: How is the pandemic impacting ICC children and the staff who provide care for them?

A: Part of the impact has been an increase in the cost of living. Products that you might consider as cheaper, such as vegetables, are maybe less safe for us to use in our children's villages because they come from markets where there are lots of people. Our administrators are buying more of their products in places that are more sanitary like a supermarket.

The pandemic has affected ICC around the world in terms of education. We've had to get computers and tablets because many of our schools are using quite a bit of online learning – especially at secondary school and college. Most of the kids do not like this. They are missing being in school with their teachers.

On the positive side, the good thing that we experienced is that because these are children's villages, it is sort of a bubble where the kids and parents are safe. The kids are able to run around and play. We have room for them to be out and about. So, in that sense, emotionally, they are not quite as impacted as in some places.

Q: How has the pandemic altered the way you manage and support the children's projects?

A: This morning, I noticed by 10 o'clock that I'd had a conversation with about 10 different people in seven different countries. That's kind of a typical day. Over the years, communication with children's villages has been a challenge. I've used everything from HAM radio, years ago, to fax machines and then e-mail. Telephones have never seemed to work well, but it is getting better as there are more cell phone towers in countries where our children's villages are located.

But the one thing we're not doing is going to visit the projects in person. That's very hard. It's hard on them... It's hard on us... Because we develop fairly close relationships with the children, with the house parents, with the administration.

On the opening day of school in the Dominican Republic this year at our campus, I was in the Zoom meeting that they had for all the children. It was interesting. All these little windows with the children. The teacher was talking, and they were doing the national anthem. It was an interesting experience. At least they could see that I was a part of that.

Q: What is giving you hope right now that the children will continue to be provided for?

A: Looking back over the last twelve months is what really gives me hope for the next twelve months. There was so much uncertainty during 2020, and yet, from

month to month, we were able to make our budgets. It was a stretch sometimes. There were times when we didn't know if we were going to make it. We did have to cut back here and there. Yet, the basic needs and essentials, we were able to meet.

I find that the donors of ICC are very loyal, and they're very committed and sacrificial. The battle is not ours, the battle is the Lord's, and this ministry is the Lord's ministry. We leave this in God's hands. We do the best we can.

Ultimately, we depend 100 percent on the Lord to take care of these kids, and we see that He has come through for the kids in the past twelve months. We are encouraged and we are certain that He will come through in the next twelve months, and beyond if time should last.

Q: Is there anything you would like to share with the ICC family of supporters?

A: One of the things I'm hearing from our administration, from our kids, from the people in these other countries, is a lot of appreciation for the donors of ICC. There has been a lot of fear that the donors who have lost their jobs or who don't have the income that they used to have may not be able to support as much as before, and it's true in some cases.

Yet, the Lord has really blessed us, and our projects have been able to have the things they need. There's a huge amount of appreciation from the children and from the staff, that this is so incredible, that God has blessed, and that the donors really have their backs and are really helping them during this difficult time.

Family Fun and Snow at El Oasis!

Snow reached the valley floor of El Oasis Children's Village in Mexico this winter. The Children's Village had a snow day to celebrate. From starting snow-ball fights, to warming up with a cup of soup, it was a day of family fun to remember. Yet, these children experienced much more than just a rare snow day. They experienced the joy of a healthy and loving family. Thank you for helping to make that possible!



Photos blurred to protect the identities of the children.

Memorials

In Honor of Cade Erwin
Creg Langley

In Honor of Hannah Erwin
Creg Langley

In Honor of their Sponsored Child
Paula Montojo

In Honor of Orville and Jean Parchment
Norville Parchment

In Memory of Anna & Ernest Bernard
Beth Carlson

In Memory of Ron Boucher
John and Merry Walker

In Memory of Helen Downey
Tom Downey

In Memory of Amy Duarte
Maria Sherman

In Memory of Thelma Johnson
Laurel Johnson

In Memory of Ruth Jones
Lillian Wysong

In Memory of Eugene & Esther Krause
James and Karen Snyder

In Memory of Yvonne Lutts
Lillian Wysong

In Memory of Amy Ann Miller
Rod and Kathie Weis

In Memory of Dick Modson
Don and Carolyn Bohlman

In Memory Don Palmer Sr.
Sabrina Kiele

In Memory of Lyle Pierce
Don and Carolyn Bohlman

In Memory of Gene Pifer
Lillian Wysong

In Memory of Elmer Ringering
Lillian Wysong

In Memory of Gary Ringering
Lillian Wysong

In Memory of Marvin Teske
Margaret and Richard Engroff

In Memory of Marvin Teske
Jo and Victor Vilhauer

In Memory of Kay Unger
Wendy Unger

In Memory of Hans Wiggers
Charles and Joan Thomas



A Legacy of Love

*P*roviding for the future
through planned giving

You can leave a lasting legacy
in the life of an orphan child.

Contact Doug today
for more details.

(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.