



QUÉ PASA

What's Happening

February 2021

A Publication of International Children's Care
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A Heart Full of Gratitude

Thank You for the Care You Help to Provide

**Photo
blurred
in online
version to
protect
children**

Thank you for helping to make it possible for children like Rosalina to have a home and family in which to grow and thrive.



Rosalina enjoys leading out and participating in the Las Palmas Youth programs at church. This picture is taken after one such meeting. The following day, she expressed her gratitude during a special service of thanksgiving. Thank you for your support of children like Rosalina. They are grateful for what you do for them!

When Rosalina's mother died, she was taken to live with her oldest brother. Eventually, her father died as well. It was about that time that Rosalina learned about Jesus from a neighbor. Even though she had been orphaned, Rosalina stayed faithful to what she was taught about Jesus.

This created problems in the home of her brother who would not tolerate her beliefs. Eventually, Rosalina was brought to the Las Palmas Children's Village in the Dominican Republic where, thanks to your support, she has found a home where she can thrive.

According to Samilin, Las Palmas director, Rosalina "is very grateful for having the opportunity to come to [Las Palmas]. She is a Christian girl. Every time she has the opportunity to express her gratefulness, she does it in church publicly."

The following is an excerpt from a testimony she gave at a recent thankfulness Sabbath. In this message, she is speaking on behalf of all the children.

In the name of all the children of Hogar Campestre Adventista Las Palmas, we want to give thanks to each one of those who work together so that this Home can be a reality... We want to especially give thanks to each of the directors of this place – this children's village... And also, especially to ICC, because it is a program that helps children with needs.

Thanks very much also to each of our sponsors – we want to thank them.

And, above all else, we want to thank God because He has been very, very good

with each one of us, and we do not have words with which to thank Him.

During this year which has been one of big difficulties with this pandemic, each of us here has the great privilege that we can be here – to go to the church – that we can go to the school and all of that – and we can have recreation.

There are many children around the world who cannot do this.... And God has given us this luck – this opportunity – to do all this. So, thank you so much to each of these persons. The Lord will repay you with eternal life.

El Oasis Farm Update:

Stretching the Impact of Your Support

Thanks to your support, the El Oasis farm in Mexico continues to provide operating resources for the care of the children. As you will see in the infographic below, this is not a small operation, since it has over 70 acres in cultivation.

It is an amazing undertaking as all the produce is picked by hand and carried by five-gallon buckets to waiting semi-trailers. The primary crop was jalapeño peppers, but there were other varieties of peppers including serranos, gueritos and habaneros as well as tomatillos.

According to Raúl Rivera, El Oasis Business Manager, the 2020 growing season presented many different opportunities and challenges. Raúl was able to sell to markets in

the United States. And even when those markets were no longer available, there were still opportunities to sell within Mexico.

However, later in the growing season, Raúl faced another challenge due to the coronavirus pandemic situation. Many of the agricultural workers in the area left early to go back to their homes in other parts of Mexico, and he had a hard time finding enough workers. Some of the peppers had to be sold at a lower price because they got a bit overripe.

This season, the farm made some much-needed upgrades for the post-harvest processing. This included acquiring a conveyor belt system to assist with washing, sorting, and packing the produce.

The farm has its own special logo that is printed on each box.

Another important acquisition was a pre-cooling station that prepares the tractor trailers after the produce has been packed inside before shipping. As you can imagine, without such a unit the produce would become damaged in the intense heat of the sun. In the past, the farm has had to pay others for this service. Now, the farm will have a cost savings of about \$250 per trailer and can charge other farmers that amount for cooling theirs. This becomes a mini-industry.

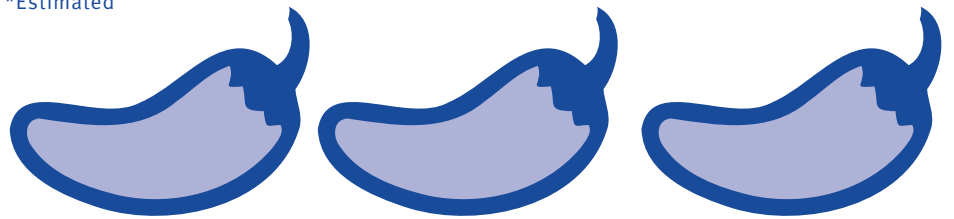
Raúl summed up the 2020 season by saying that “in spite of everything, we can thank God because we were able to sell our entire harvest, not at the prices we wanted, but we did sell all the production.”



Raul Rivera, El Oasis Business Manager, displays peppers from El Oasis Industry. With over 70 acres under cultivation, the produce helps to stretch your contributions even further, creating an even larger impact for the children!

30+ MILLION JALAPEÑO PEPPERS

*Estimated



2,643,698
Pounds of Produce
(1,322 Tons)

**61 TRACTOR
TRAILERS
FILLED WITH
PRODUCE**



183,000
5-Gallon Buckets Filled
*Estimated

El Oasis Farm Update:

Stretching the Impact of Your Support



All the produce is picked by hand and carried in five-gallon buckets to waiting semi-trailers. After being sorted and washed on a conveyer belt, the peppers are placed into boxes to be sold. The farm has its own special logo that is printed on each box. It reads, "Harvesting the Seed of Hope." It is only possible to plant these seeds of hope thanks to your support. Thank You!



A NEW SEASON OF GROWTH

The 2021 season is just starting at the El Oasis farm. Please pray that God will continue to direct and bless this important endeavor. And as the seedlings grow to maturity and produce a harvest, pray for the children of El Oasis that they, too, will grow and develop and will be part of the "Heavenly Harvest" when Jesus returns!

Christmas Hope Matching Challenge a Success – Thanks to YOU!

100% +

Because of the kind generosity of individuals like you, the Christmas Hope Matching Challenge has been met. One-hundred percent of the \$123,500 funds for the challenge have been matched. Praise the Lord!

Expenses were outpacing resources and reserve funds were depleted. We turned to you, and you met and exceeded the challenge given. Your gifts of love are helping to provide the essential care that the children need.

Thank you for all you do to care for His Kids. And thank you for providing hope to the children.

Even though the matching challenge goal has been met, the children continue to need your love and support. We recognize that many of you already give as much as you are able to give. For that we thank you! Yet, if you are able, please prayerfully consider continuing your support to further bless His Kids. **THANK YOU!**



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Give and it Shall Be Given Back to You

By Pastor Rick Bowes

*"Give and it shall be given back to you, good measure, pressed down, shaken together, and running over."
Luke 6:38*

This morning, those familiar words of Jesus in Luke 6:38 nearly jumped off the page as I read them. They did so because at the same time I was reading the promise of Luke 6:38, I was also looking at three beautiful photos that I had spread on my desk in front of me.

They were group photos of Christmas celebrations from El Oasis in Mexico, Los Pinos in Guatemala, and from Sweet Home in India.

By the time each of the photos were taken, the Christmas presents had already been opened, the special Christmas meal that all had looked forward to throughout the year had already been eaten, and the beautiful story of Jesus birth had already been told.

And now as this most special time of the year was coming to a close, the administrators of each children's village had gathered the ICC kids together for a photo.

And now as I look at these photos and I write these words to you on January 7, 2021, my mind has been rocketed back to the promise of Luke 6:38.

It's a promise that assures us that when we give, not only will we receive back, we will receive back more than we originally gave. Yes, indeed, the gift comes back to us, *"...Good measure, pressed down, shaken together, and running over."*

Today here at the ICC office our hearts are "running over," they are running over with gratitude for your generosity. We asked you



El Oasis celebrated Christmas and the start of a New Year with joy, thanks to the support you provided in 2020. This is their Christmas card. At the start of 2021, your support continues to provide a home and family to children in need, all around the world.

to give sacrificially, and that's exactly what you did, and we are praising the Lord for it.

As I look at the three photos before me, though those pictured in them are from different cultures and different locations throughout the world, they have one thing in common, and that's the smiles.

The question, "What is going to happen in this next year?" is on all of our hearts and minds.

From the oldest to the youngest, from the biggest to the littlest, the ICC kids are smiling.

They are smiling because now they have food, medicine, education. They are smiling because now they know they are loved, and now they have hope for the future.

But this morning as I took one last look at these photos, and as I began to focus on the adults in them, focusing not only on their smiles, but also on their eyes, I

realized that their smiles were a bit different because they seemed to be tinged with a little bit of worry about the future.

It was as if they were saying, "By God's grace, and by the generosity of our donors, we made it through this year, but what's going to happen next year?"

Indeed, the question, "What is going to happen in this next year?" is on all of our hearts and minds.

In January, in February, and in March, and as we move on into the future, the ICC kids still need to be fed, and the bills still need to be paid. What's going to happen then?

The bottom line for us here at the ICC office is that we don't know. All we can do is pray about it every day, continue to make our needs known to you our donors, and then give as God directs us to give knowing that it will come back...

"...Good measure, pressed down, shaken together, and running over."

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.