



QUÉ PASA

What's Happening

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BACK TO SCHOOL EDITION

Did you know that your support makes "Back to School" possible for "His Kids?" That's right! Even though the pandemic makes some adjustments necessary in how school is being implemented, quality education is only possible for the children because of generous ICC family members like YOU! The teachers and administrators realize this and are very grateful for your support. Here's a message of gratitude recently sent by the school staff at the Las Palmas Children's village in the Dominican Republic.

"In these moments, we want to thank God that, even in the midst of this pandemic and economic situation, our institution of ICC has maintained its payroll in each month. Thank you, God. On behalf of the academic administration and the educational personnel, please express to the directors and the sponsors our gratitude and our prayer that God will bless them all."

Education transforms the life of an orphan child. In the following story you'll see the wonderful result, the fruit of the harvest, that you make possible when you support the children.



Education is an important part of the children's program that you help to support. Thanks to the generosity of kind people like you, most of the children's villages are able to operate elementary schools on their own grounds, accommodating the school program to the needs of the children. Your support provides education through high school, and on to college or university, when the young person shows interest and ability.

Ricardo's Story

Just before Christmas in 1997 Mexican authorities decided to close two deteriorating orphanages. Twenty-four orphan children needed a place to live and we were asked to take the children. Even though the El Oasis Children's village was not completed, ICC administrator's decided to welcome them into the ICC family.

What a scene it was when the large bus rolled onto the El Oasis campus and the children disembarked. They were wide-eyed and filled with wonder as they surveyed their new surroundings.

Among the group of children who arrived that first day were Ricardo and his two brothers. They had lost their parents. Before the government stepped

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REAL STORIES *Lives You Helped to Transform*



Ricardo's life changed from that of an orphan child stuck in the cycle of poverty, to a young man with a loving family at the start of a successful career. This was only possible because of people like you who stepped out in faith to make a difference in the life of children in need.

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in to help the boys, four-year-old Ricardo would go out into the local village in search of something to eat. He would return with food for his younger brothers so they could eat.

It should have been no surprise that at the end of their first meal at El Oasis, the two older brothers took food from the table and quickly hid it under their beds. They didn't realize that the ICC caregivers were going to provide for them! It took two or three more meals, but then Ricardo began to realize that, for the first time in his life, he was going to have enough food!

This happened thanks to the support of people just like you who care for orphaned children.

As Ricardo grew up, he demonstrated many positive traits: patience, a good attitude when dealing with difficulties, natural happiness, and interest to learn more about Jesus and the new life He promises. He was a helpful child and wanted to learn to

run the little PA system in the church. At 10 years of age, he was already in charge of operating it every week during services. He would arrive wearing a suit coat that was too large for him, but he wanted to look like a pastor or someone important. He made sure that things functioned correctly in order to make life a little easier for the administrator.

One day the little daughter of Ricardo's house parents was learning to take her first steps. The house father was obviously excited. Ricardo observed what was going on with great interest. He eventually approached his house father and asked, "Do you think my dad was excited when I took my first steps in life? I wish there was someone that would have been excited for me."

His house father replied, "I don't know about your biological father and what happened back at that time in your life. I do know that every day I'm thrilled to be your house father. As the days go by, I'm proud of everything you do - for being such a fine young man,

for being so helpful and caring of other people. I know that Jesus would have been smiling down and would have been proud of you the day you took your first steps as well."

That's the kind of loving care that you help to make possible through your generous support!

Along with the nurturing care that Ricardo received at El Oasis, he had the opportunity to go to school. What better way is there to break the cycle of poverty than to engage a young mind in positive learning experiences?

Ricardo did well in his studies and showed that he was intelligent and capable. Eventually, through the kind support of individuals, Ricardo enrolled in the dentistry program at Montemorelos University in Mexico.

Ricardo excelled as a student and as a growing professional. When he was doing his practice in the school clinic, patients would often say: "I would like to wait for Dr. Ricardo." He was well known for having a great attitude



Ricardo was one of the first children to live at El Oasis. Because of you, Ricardo gained the opportunity to live with loving parents, to attend school, and to learn about Jesus.

REAL STORIES *Lives You Helped to Transform*

with the patients. He showed real care for them, not only regarding their medical needs, but making sure he could inspire them with the seed of hope and happiness. The patients also knew Ricardo's dental work was very good.

This past May, Ricardo realized a dream when he graduated with his degree in dentistry. The ceremony was held online because of the pandemic.

Ricardo's graduation picture was featured on the university Facebook page throughout the weekend. We celebrate with Ricardo in this wonderful

achievement and know that God has special plans for him.

Ricardo is grateful for the amazing support that the ICC family provided. He knows that, without faithful supporters, his destiny would be totally different.

Ricardo wants to continue giving back by helping others in need as he has been helped in his life. Helping others is what Jesus taught us while He was on earth, and at El Oasis, Ricardo learned to love Jesus and follow His steps! Thank you for helping to make his journey possible through your support!



Through the generosity of caring individuals, Ricardo graduated from the dentistry program at Montemorelos University in Mexico this year.

Stephen's Story – Studying Computer Science in Ghana



Stephen, pictured right, is able to pursue his dream of working in computer science because of the support of people like you. The friendships and family he has made will make a lasting impact on his life, just as your support makes a lasting impact.

Stephen was born in a village with little educational opportunities in Ghana. His father repaired roofing to provide for the family. His mother stayed home to care for her five children. Then, all too quickly, life for Stephen dramatically changed. There was a faulty board in the roof rafters where Stephen's father was working. He fell through the roof and died. Three months later, Stephen's mother died of typhoid fever. This left the children all alone.

In Ghana, there is no large ICC Children's Village. Yet, a man

named Michael saw a need to help orphans in that country. That is why, in 1998, he worked with ICC to set up a rental home where a family might care for and support orphans. Because of limited funds, this project has remained small, yet a beautiful household of children are supported there.

In 2001, when Stephen was five years old, he and his siblings came to live at the ICC Ghana Children's Home. Stephen got along well with the other children. Best of all, he didn't have to be separated from his biological siblings, and he got to attend school. Stephen

quickly became a kind and helpful member of the household. He loved math, and often helped the younger children with homework.

By sixth grade, Stephen's love for math expanded into a love for technology. He carefully studied computers, and even repaired the home laptop as needed. Yet, Stephen never imagined that his love for technology would ever translate into a career. He didn't know that jobs like that existed. Thankfully, the Information Communications Technology (ICT) teacher at school recognized a talent in Stephen, and began to encourage him.

Stephen gradually became more determined and confident in class. He worked hard in his studies, and found a job at a media company after high school. Now, Stephen is a Computer Science major in university.

"I made good friends in university," says Stephen. "We are always

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An Opportunity Awaits YOU!

Can you remember...

- The scent of a freshly sharpened pencil,
- The kaleidoscope of colors in a big box of 64 crayons,
- The glossy feel of a textbook cover as you opened it the first time,
- The distinct sound made when you clicked open your three-ring notebook to insert paper?

There's nothing quite like the sights, sounds, smells, and sensations of the first day of school for ICC children. And, being dressed appropriately in a clean, crisp uniform is not only required by government education authorities, it is also an important part of the experience.



With your help, a new generation of students will be able to grow and experience the blessing of education.

Having the correct supplies and dressing appropriately does wonders for helping the children gain the most from their schooling. But there are high costs involved. A pair of school uniforms (one for wearing while the other is being laundered) and shoes can easily cost well over \$50 per year.

And instructional aids, materials and school supplies can cost over \$100. While sponsors help to provide for much that the children need, there are still gaps, and additional funds are needed.

You have the opportunity right now to ensure that the children have the essentials they need to thrive this school year. Would you consider giving an extra \$25, \$50 or even \$100 in support of the children and their education needs?

You have helped kids like Ricardo and Stephen to experience the joy of success. And now a new generation of students is looking to you to help them achieve great things! Please use the enclosed response coupon and designate your gift as "Back to School Fund." The children thank you!

Stephen's Story – Continued from Page Three

writing codes and sometimes make fun out of it."

Stephen and his friends have developed several programs for local businesses, and are working to start their own IT firm, called Perfect Media Consortium. The Computer Science department took notice of their hard work and skill. Because of that, Stephen and his friends were asked to represent the school in a "hackathon" competition against other universities and software development companies.

In this competition, they had four days to develop a mobile application and web application for a specified problem. By day three, Stephen's team was the only university level team left in the running.

While they did not win the competition, Stephen is proud that they were able to go as far as they did.

"I deem it a great privilege to be part of this wonderful family of ICC Ghana," says Stephen. "I have a dream of becoming a good computer software developer and a motivational speaker to bring joy to the faces of destitute people who want to give up in life. I really enjoy what I am studying."

Because of people like you, Stephen is able to pursue his dreams. He also works to help others, just as you have helped him. Thank you for helping to provide Stephen with tools for success. Your support is a great blessing!



A Legacy of Love

Providing 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

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