



QUÉ PASA

What's Happening

A Publication of International Children's Care
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Meeting COVID-19 Challenges

An Update From ICC Projects Around the World



Your financial support of a child like "Atul" is critical during this time of global pandemic and upheaval. Please consider sponsoring him or another child today, or sign up for a recurring gift.

"He shall call upon me, and I will answer him: I will be with him in trouble; I will deliver him, and honor him." Psalm 91:15

The world is rapidly moving from one catastrophe to the next. Yet, at this time of upheaval, we are thankful that we can call upon God, and He will answer us and be with us in times of trouble.

Our ICC family has not been exempted from experiencing its share of trouble. Yet through it all, praise the Lord, He continues to watch over His children. Here are some brief updates from ICC projects around the world so you

know what is happening and how you can pray and continue to support "His kids!"

India: DEWS Sweet Home

Imagine what it must be like to live in "the RED ZONE" in India and be responsible for caring for dozens of children when most shops are not open and there are curfews. That's the challenge our ICC staff face at the DEWS Sweet Home Children's Village. Because of the outbreak of COVID-19, the government has placed that region of India in a strict lockdown.

Though none of our ICC family in India have the Coronavirus, the lockdown has created many obstacles. The primary vehicle (an Indian made "Scorpio") for transporting children and supplies has broken down and needs to be replaced. And to top it off, our water filtration system is not working. The government subsidizes bottled water so it can be purchased inexpensively. But picking it up without a vehicle has been a real challenge.

Udai, one of our grown children now serves the children's village as business manager. He shared the following: "Because we don't have a vehicle at the present, I had a

very hard time bringing groceries on the scooter making 3-4 rounds to town during the Covid-19 pandemic condition. Also, we used to get drinking water in the Scorpio, but because of the present condition we are having a hard time hiring an auto to bring water to campus for the children to drink.

"The policemen are beating people if they see more than one person on the scooter. So, I have to go alone and tie all the groceries to the scooter on the back and front area and then find a narrow way hiding and coming back home. Thank God we did not face any medical emergency yet."

Car dealers are closed, and when they reopen, funds will be needed to purchase a new vehicle.

Dominican Republic Las Palmas Children's Village

At the Las Palmas Children's Village, it is increasingly difficult to find quality food at affordable prices. According to Mario, our business manager:

"The shelves in the supermarkets are mostly empty, and we have to buy what we can find. ... The farmers right now are not easily getting the materials they need

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to tend their crops so they will have a good production.

"People can't work because they can't leave their houses, and the ones who are producing can't find the labor they need, and even less the materials to be able to be sure to have a good harvest. From now on it is possible we will have difficulties getting those products and that many will be at higher prices."

The children of Las Palmas are praying for you each day. Please pray for them and consider giving an extra donation to help provide for the operating needs at Las Palmas.

Guatemala

Los Pinos Children's Village

Joel Carpio, director of the Los Pinos Children's Village, recently shared the following update: "Since February, when we had the cases of flu, we haven't had serious sicknesses. The pandemic has not touched us.

"The school is functioning at 90% with a reduced schedule. (I don't know if we might be the only school in all of Guatemala which is having classes with the kids present – the rest are virtual.) The kids have been fine. We have not lacked food nor other things. It is a little more expensive, and sometimes the quality is not very good, but we are finding enough. Clothing and shoes are very hard to get.

"We always thank God because there has been no lack of funds, and our blessings that we wish for the sponsors and donors are constant. ... Pass on the appreciation of the Los Pinos community to the personnel of ICC – to each one who makes it possible for us to have everything we need."

Please pray for the ICAP secondary school which ICC operates next to Los Pinos. Tuition payments have fallen sharply, and it has been a real struggle to provide a virtual experience when many students don't have access to internet for online classes.

D.R. Congo Patmos Children's Village

Not only is the Patmos Children's Village in the DR Congo the largest project within the ICC family, it is often buffeted more severely by external forces.

The government's response to COVID-19 was to lock down the country, close the borders, and stop road, air and maritime traffic. Fortunately, because of our remote location, the Patmos elementary and secondary schools were able to continue operating.

However, because of the disruption in the supply of food and other goods, prices soared. Operating expenses for Patmos increased by 21% in March. And

in May it spiked to a 30% increase. As an example of the raising costs, twenty-five Kg of corn flour before the pandemic sold for \$15. In May, the cost was \$25.

Désiré sent an urgent appeal to ICC headquarters asking for assistance. Because of the faithful support of ICC family members like you, additional funds have been sent to provide for the immediate needs. Thank you for your loving concern for the children and those who provide for their care!

Please pray for the Patmos Children's Village amid the rapid inflation in the DR Congo. Pray that Désiré will be able to find the supplies that are needed at prices that can be managed within the resources on hand. And please continue giving generously for the support of all "His kids."

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The summer months are especially challenging times to meet the ongoing needs of the children. Thank you very much for your support!



Because of the faithful support of ICC family members like you, additional funds have been sent to provide for the immediate needs of the Patmos Children's Village. Thank you for your loving concern for the children and those who provide for their care!

The Farmer's Children

By William Hurtado



Raul stands by a jalepeño field with one of his twin sons. Raul almost lost his life, but God spared him so that he could help children in need. Thanks to your support, Raul can now tell his story.

Hard work, honesty, and people skills—these are the qualities that make Raul one of the best farm managers ICC has. From humble beginnings to now the man in charge of ICC's largest farming industry in the El Oasis Children's Village, Raul exemplifies ICC's mission to support children in need.

Raul came from an unpretentious family dependent on small-scale agriculture and livestock. He was raised with six siblings by parents who taught him the value of integrity in everything they did. At 14-years-old, ready to spread his wings, Raul left home to work with his brother as a colporteur. By age 16—with his parents 3000 km away—he was a young man independent of his family but totally dependent on God.

After beginning his university studies in accounting at the Adventist University in Sonora, Mexico, Raul became an intern on the university farm. He also met his wife Emma Villanueva, who according to Raul “was undoubtedly chosen by my God

since I asked for a good wife in many of my prayers.”

After graduating in 2000 and working for the church for the next decade, Raul learned how to be an effective business manager. In 2009 he rescued a school in Ensenada from the verge of bankruptcy. He reimagined their industries with the sale of vegetarian products that helped parents pay their children's tuition. Things were going well for Raul, until this happened...

“In 2010, I became seriously ill when I was diagnosed with a hypertrophic heart disease,” Raul recalled. “I became a candidate for a transplant as urgently as possible, but there were around 300 patients who were waiting like me for a heart. I had so many plans to develop the work and to raise my twin sons who were only 4 years old, but it seemed that my God was punishing me. But it was during this time that I heard the very clear voice of my heavenly Father telling me not to worry. I accepted that God was in control of my life.”

Miraculously, a cardiologist

who specialized in Raul's disease helped Raul circumvent a heart transplant with an alternative recovery process. “I could feel the hand of God,” said Raul. “In just two weeks I had stabilized enough to be discharged. I thanked my God enormously for the calm that came into my life despite the storm.”

Now on medical leave, Raul dedicated himself to caring for his boys. And it was during those days that he was invited to become the remote accountant for El Oasis.

During one of Raul's visits to the children's village in 2016, he met with ICC President, Rick Fleck, and talked about the financial situation of the children's home. Raul made proposals of how they could develop projects that could help improve the finances. A year later they started with small projects such as planting corn for the local market and buying 300 chicks to start an organic egg industry. They also planted watermelons and zucchini, and by the end of the season brought in a good harvest.

At the end of 2017, Raul connected with a children's village neighbor called Marcos Gómez who directed Trinity Valley farming. Raul asked him what he would recommend to plant. Marcos kindly told him that his boss had been planting jalepeño chili peppers for three years and had done very well.

Raul enlisted his help and together presented the possibilities to ICC. Months later, 15 acres of jalapeño peppers yielded a bountiful crop. The following year, they expanded to 50 acres.

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Groceries for Las Palmas



You are part of a world-wide family of open-hearted individuals who make it possible for orphan children to receive the food and tender-loving care that they so desperately need. Thank you!

God has recently provided for the Las Palmas Children's Village in a special way. A man in a nearby town wanted to do something to help people during the pandemic. Unsure where to start, he called a newspaper reporter to ask for ideas of what or who he could help. The reporter is an Adventist and knows Samilin, so she told him about Las Palmas, and shared Samilin's phone number.

He called Samilin and asked what he could do to help. She gave him a few ideas, and a few days later he showed up with several bags of groceries in his car. Samilin and the other staff members were very appreciative. They made him feel good and showed him around campus. Later, he called and told Samilin how happy he was to be able to help in a small way. "This was just a little that I brought,

but I'm thinking about doing this every month, and bringing bigger quantities. I can see now that this is going to be used in a very good way. I'm Catholic, but I don't think our religion matters in this. In God we are united in helping each other. It has brought me so much joy to help you, I am just so happy right now!"

The Farmer's Children

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Market challenges hit their ability to sell the peppers, but Raul was led by the Holy Spirit to find new buyers for them.

Now, three years later, Raul and his team are planning for 65 acres of produce. God has been incredibly good, and the proceeds combined with what donors around the world provide, have been able to sustain the children's village to this day. Raul thanks God for how He has blessed his work...and his children.

The twin boys in the photo are Raul's children, 15 years old now. They are intelligent young men ready to work for God. But these

boys are not the only children Raul loves. Raul loves all the ICC children. While Raul works, ICC children play, study, eat, enjoy the company of house parents, do their chores, work in their garden, and get to see the jalapeños grow. All these children are Raul's children. More than that, all these children are God's children. It's a large family. And as an ICC supporter, you are part of the family, too.

Thank you for loving ICC's children like Raul does. Do keep Raul and other ICC workers in your prayers. And do keep supporting the children, for "at the harvest time many faithful parents will return with joy." AH533.4



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