



# QUÉ PASA

## What's Happening

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A Publication of International Children's Care  
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## Your Gifts Built Two New Homes for Orphaned Children at Patmos



By the grace of God and your generous donations, two new homes have been prepared for the orphans in the Patmos Village. Last year, 48 new orphans were taken in. They have been living in tight spaces- until now. Thank you!

When Patmos Children's Village received 48 new orphans last year, there was little room for them. They had to squeeze into houses already full of other children. They had to share a bed sometimes between three or four other children. But supporters like you rallied and sent funds to build two new children's homes in record time. Most of the children and new house parents have moved into those facilities and are thriving there.

Our project administrator Desiré Murhima recently sent a message from Congo. Here is an edited excerpt:

"First, we send you our greetings in the name of Jesus Christ.

"It is with hearts full of joy and gratitude that we say thank you for adding two homes for the orphaned children at Patmos Children's village who survived the catastrophic flooding in the territory of Kalehe.

"We appreciate your compassion, and the sacrifices you made to fulfill this need. May God grant you long life and good health.

"However, it is important to remember that we still have 17 orphaned children from that crisis who currently lack proper shelter. They too need a home and by faith we are already laying the foundation for the third home.

"We continue to earnestly re-

quest your support for these children, so they may have a decent home. We are confident that, with the Lord's help, you will find a solution to this pressing need and build a third home to meet this need.

Please accept, dear donors and sponsors, the expression of our sincere gratitude in Jesus Christ our Savior."

As Desiré mentioned, you can help the remaining 17 new children have a home like the others. Your gifts and God's blessing have provided two new homes to be quickly built and furnished for the new children. Only one remains to be built which will allow all the children to have enough room. If you want to support this remaining project for the Congo children, please send your gift today. On behalf of the children in Patmos: thank you.



We ask that you prayerfully consider giving to provide proper shelter to the remaining 17 orphans in Patmos.

# A Personal Note

By Rick Fleck

## Forty Years of Blessing Orphan Children in the Dominican Republic



A wonderful celebration full of music and family was held to mark forty years of care in the Dominican Republic Las Palmas children's village. Thank you for your part in God's ministry!

What a beautiful time it was for Sharon and me to celebrate the 40th anniversary of when the Las Palmas children's village was established in 1984.

The celebrations had been advertised on the radio all over the country, and the whole campus was buzzing with activity for weeks ahead of time. They painted, cleaned and scrubbed, and they found donors in the Dominican Republic and the USA to help them with the expenses.

They had special programs on Friday night and Sabbath, but the main celebration was on Sunday. They welcomed in many visitors, including many who had grown up in Las Palmas.

As we enjoyed the wonderful music from our current and now-independent children, my mind went back a few years. My dad was the president of the Dominican conference when I was a teenager, and it was then that I learned to love that island and the wonderful people. Unfortunately, we also got acquainted

with the abundant poverty. My mother would often have very poor children in our home.

Then after ICC was started in Guatemala in 1978, a few years later, in 1984, I came with my little family to work with ICC with my parents. The first thing that Sharon and I did with ICC was to go with our two small children for a month to the Las Palmas children's village to take over while the American administrative couple there took some much-needed vacation.

We got to know the first children that came into Las Palmas, and now this year we got to see several of them at the anniversary celebration, now with their spouses and children. They have always called me Papa Rick and Sharon is Mommy Sharon, and they still call us that to this day as they introduce us to "our" little grandchildren that they set in our arms to admire.

This was one of the highlights of



Papa Rick and Mommy Sharon, as they are lovingly referred to, were reunited with several children of the Las Palmas village who are now all grown up with spouses and children of their own.

the anniversary celebration for us. It vividly showed the positive impact that the ICC model of family-based care has on the children and their own families when they grow older. At Las Palmas, orphan children have learned what it means to be a part of a family, and they are passing this on to their own children.



It was a joyous weekend, with young people reconnecting and sharing selfies and smiles.

There were other highlights during the weekend celebration. The young people were reconnecting and taking selfies. We could see that they felt like they were back with their families.

The music was awesome. The singing group from many years

ago got several of their members back together to treat us to wonderful music. And we were inspired by the current group of adults and young people who are carrying on that singing tradition.

The band and orchestra performed to the delight of all the visitors. People were amazed to see the way so many kids were able to develop their talents in many ways in this ICC project.

What an experience! And what a miracle that we have seen and lived over these 40 years! This is literally God's ministry, and He provides everything.

But the special thing is that He uses you and me to do it. Isn't that wonderful? What a privilege for each of us to have that opportunity to give second chances to these little ones so that they can have a full life, get an education and learn of the love of Jesus and His plan for each one.

Sharon and I have been especially blessed to be able to represent you to the kids in the ICC children's villages around the world. We tell them about all the

wonderful people in countries far away who are thinking about them, praying for them and supporting them to have a second chance in life.

I know they appreciate you—they have told me, and many times have said to tell you how much they appreciate having someone who cares about them.

So, on behalf of each of these, whether they are living life with their own family or are just starting out as a little child in an ICC children's village, thank you for all you do for each of them!!!



Rick and Sharon have been blessed by the opportunity to represent you to the ICC children around the world. They are always sure to mention the wonderful people who are praying and supporting them. They truly appreciate you!



Music was shared from current and now-independent children. Thank you for giving them the opportunity to cultivate this skill that infinitely blesses!

# Thank You for Helping to Give Children an "Encounter with Jesus."

The Los Pinos Children's village participated in a special week of spiritual emphasis recently.

During the first period of the school day, the primary students enjoyed an "Encounter with Jesus" through Bible stories presented to them. In the evenings, the Los Pinos families as well as community students and their parents gathered in the church for a special program titled "God First." The central message was to experience the blessing of giving our Heavenly Father the highest priority in everything.

And the highlight of the week? After a year and a half since the school program started including community children and they began to hear and learn about the love of Jesus, five precious souls decided to give their lives to Jesus through baptism!

Thank you for helping to support the children of Los Pinos! You are enabling them to learn about the love of God, His care, His mercy, His forgiveness, and the salvation He offers us through His grace.

Thank you for continuing to make these kids a priority. None of this would be possible without YOU!

The highlight of the week was watching five beautiful young people commit their lives to Christ.



Not only did our kids listen to the speaker talk about God's love, God's care, God's mercy, God's forgiveness, and eternal life, they also provided music.



The children gained spiritual insights through group activities.



## Wills TRUSTS

### 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 Wendy Clark today.

(800) 422-7729

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