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QUÉ PASA

What's Happening

A Publication of International Children's Care
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Learning to Fly, Thanks to You!

Nathalie's Testimony, part 1



From working as a child to earn her own money, to receiving the highest achievement upon graduating high school, Nathalie has and continues to serve the Lord in everything she does. Thank you for giving her the opportunity to know and serve Him!

Editor's Note: You may recall reading in the September Que Pasa a feature about the 40th anniversary of ICC's Las Palmas Children's Village in the Dominican Republic. The impact of your support goes on and on in the lives of current children as well as those who have become independent. Following is part one of an edited excerpt of a testimony from Nathalie, one of ICC's grown children.

Before my mother died, she asked a sister from the church to take me to the Las Palmas Children's Village. She knew that I would not be in need there. I was four years old

when I came to Las Palmas. One year later, my father also passed away.

The years went by, and by the grace of God I was blessed with very good house parents and received the best instruction for life. First, I came to know the God whom I serve and on whom I depend.

I received medical attention whenever I needed it. I had a reverse bite, and when I was 15 years old, I asked for braces for my teeth as a gift rather than to have a birthday party (Quinceañera) which is a Latin custom. Through the kind generosity of my ICC family, I was told that if the braces were a necessity, it would be resolved but that I did not have to choose between a party or a medical necessity. By God's grace, I received both, and I know that my surgery is one of the things that I will never find a way to say thank you enough to everyone who was involved in the process to make me well.

From the age of eight, I worked so I could have some money of my own. My brothers teased me and

said, "Nathalie cleans the house, the church, the school and the library and in the end only earns RD\$500 (about \$20)." But I know it all shaped my character.

At the end of my fourth year of high school I received the highest merit and had to give the speech. That day everyone congratulated me, and I felt happy and super proud of my achievements. However, the next day I was back on the campus of Las Palmas with a wheelbarrow picking up trash. It made me realize that you should never feel that you are so high that you can not fall. I understood that your achievements do not define your value as a person and much less the work you do. Your value comes from the simple fact of existing and being created by God.

Note: Next month we'll bring you the conclusion of Nathalie's testimony including how she felt when she was "ready to fly." Natalie represents the many children who have successfully "learned to fly" because of ICC family members like you. Thank you for your loving generosity!

You Provide a “Place to Play”

Update in Pictures

Editor’s Note: These pictures tell the story of how your support is having a tremendous impact on the lives of children at ICC’s Sweet Children’s Village in India. You are providing not only a place for basic needs to be supplied, but you are also providing “a place to call home.” Thank you for all you do for the children!



Your support provides a **Place of Safety** for orphan children. These two siblings (left and right) have just arrived. They are scared and need reassurance that they have come to a safe place. The older boy in the middle has been at Sweet Home for some time. He speaks their language and is able to comfort them and explain that they have come to a safe place.



One of the young boys is proud to show you where he sleeps. He has adjusted to life within the Sweet Home family and has found a **Place to Belong** thanks to you!



You make it possible for the children to be surrounded by caring adults who enjoy providing them a **Place to Learn**. In this picture, Nirmala, is sharing the story of Moses. Nirmala herself came to Sweet Home as a child many years ago. She serves as the Children’s Services Director and ensures the children are well cared for. We’ll share more about her in a future Que Pasa.



Just as you contribute to the well-being of the children, so they have their **Place to Contribute** to the well-being and smooth operation of their homes. The children have age-appropriate chores and learn the joy and value of working together.



We all thrive best when our minds and bodies are given adequate time to recreate. Sweet Home

provides the children with a **Place to Play** through a variety of campus activities and special outings.



You would be pleased to hear the children recite passages of scripture during their worship services. The children find Sweet Home to be a **Place to Grow** in their knowledge and application of scripture.

Note: If you would like to watch a video of children reciting scripture visit vimeo.com/1007810533/9ecfdc1fa7 or use the QR code. To use the QR Code hover over the QR code with your smart phone’s camera. A website address will appear at the bottom. Touch that website address, and it will launch the video viewer.



ICC family members like you help to provide a nurturing **Place for Friendships**. The children learn how to share, how to care, and

*Faces blurred in the online version to protect identity of children

Place to Call Home"

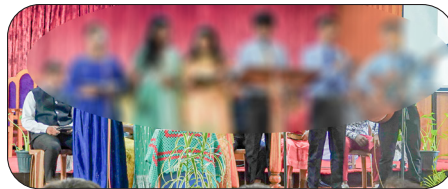
ures from India

how to look out for the interests of others. Friendships made at Sweet Home can last a lifetime.



Your ongoing generosity makes it possible for Sweet Home to be a **Place of Quality Care**. The first picture above shows a home that has stood up under years of wear. It needs remodeling. The picture below it shows a home that has been remodeled thanks to the contributions of ICC family members who make it possible

for quality care to continue. In the picture under the remodeled home, Sharon Fleck (at far right), ensures that the children indeed are provided quality care. The Sweet Home family have a deep sense of spiritual commitment, and they include it in the daily aspects of life. In the final picture to the left, a house father leads out in a small worship service just before remodeling begins on the house in the first picture. Thank you for supporting the quality care of the children!



The ICC family is a family of faith in God. The children learn to trust their Heavenly Father. They have a **Place to Worship**: whether it's in their homes, or courtyard, or in the church. And as seen in as seen in the picture above, the children, the children are also given an opportunity to lead out in worship. "This is my story. This is my song. Praising my Savior all the day long!"

If you'd like to see and hear the children singing this song, use the following website link vimeo.com/1007810700/7b3e80fc3a or QR code.



Thanks to your support, the children have a **Place to Prepare** to live independently and start families of their own. In the picture at the top right, Sweet Home's older children who are in



university have returned Home. They are grateful for the support you have given them and realize it as a great opportunity.



And what is a family without close ties that bring members back together? Your support of the children builds strong bonds and helps to provide a **Place to Return**. The picture above shows the grown children sitting down to a meal together. The children don't all go to the same schools. Reunions are special times to reminisce, tell of current happenings, and remember God's blessings.

Thanks to your generous support, ICC children have a Place to Call Home! They appreciate you and continue to depend upon you for their ongoing care. Please consider sending in a special gift in support of the children today. May God bless you for loving them and for giving them a Special Place in YOUR Heart!

Prepare to Take Care of Those You Love

During National Estate Planning Awareness Week



“Planning is how you prepare to take care of what matters.”

October 20-26 is National Estate Planning Awareness Week—a great time to start thinking about planning for the future.

We all know that planning can be tough, especially for things that seem far off. It’s easy to push off making an estate plan, but here’s a way to look at it: planning is how you prepare to take care of what matters. It’s about organizing your assets to make sure your loved ones are looked after when the unexpected happens.

Creating an estate plan is more than just writing a will. It involves setting up a comprehensive strategy that outlines who can make decisions for you if needed, who will care for your dependents, and how to minimize taxes and delays for your beneficiaries.

Estate planning is important because it gives you peace of mind. You’ll know your wishes will be honored and you can even make a meaningful impact through your favorite charities or church.

A solid estate plan typically includes:

- ♥ Will: This legal document specifies how your assets should be distributed. Without a will, your assets will have to go through probate court, which can be time-consuming and costly.
- ♥ Trust: In place of a will, a trust is a legal arrangement that allows someone to manage your property for your benefit or for your beneficiaries. It helps avoid probate, allowing your assets to be distributed faster.
- ♥ Power of Attorney: This document lets you appoint someone you trust to make legal, financial, or medical decisions for you if you’re unable to do so.
- ♥ Living Will or Advance Directive: This outlines your preferences for medical care, including decisions about life-extending treatments and long-term care.
- ♥ Guardianship Designations: A key part of your will or trust, this specifies who will care for your dependents and manage their finances if you’re unable to.
- ♥ Beneficiary Designations: For accounts like IRAs or 401(k)s, you can name beneficiaries who will receive the funds directly, bypassing the probate process. You can choose individuals, charities, or churches.

- ♥ Digital Assets: Make sure to designate someone to handle your online accounts and digital files. This includes social media, email, online banking, and more. This helps protect your identity and preserve important memories and information.

Getting started with estate planning is crucial. It might seem overwhelming at first, but beginning with a will or trust can help you gradually add other documents as needed.

A great tool to kick things off is the FreeWill platform, which guides you step by step through creating your will in as little as 20 minutes. Remember to review and update your plan regularly as your life changes.

To start your will or trust, visit



frwill.link/qp or scan the QR code. For managing beneficiary designations, creating a Financial

Power of Attorney, or setting up an Advance Health Care Directive, use the respective links provided below:

Advance Health Care Directive: FreeWill.com/AHCD

Financial Power of Attorney: FreeWill.com/POA

Beneficiary Designations: frwill.link/icc_beneficiaries

If you have questions or want to include ICC in your estate plan, feel free to contact Wendy Clark at 360-573-0429.