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QUÉ PASA

What's Happening

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Testimony of Faith and Calling



Because of your support, Mayoris found refuge at Las Palmas after she became orphaned at age 15. Mayoris was able to heal emotionally and affirm her identity in Christ at Las Palmas.

Mayoris was born in 2004, in Santo Domingo, Dominican Republic. From a very early age, God planted in her heart a special love for spiritual things and a deep desire to serve Him.

Mayoris had a normal childhood until the age of 10 when her mother died. At age 12, amid that grieving process, she had her personal encounter with Jesus and accepted Him as her only and sufficient Savior. Mayoris affirms that that decision has been one of the most steadfast and blessed of her life.

When she was 14, Mayoris suffered another tragedy when her father also died. During that period of emotional pain, she was

confronted with the reality of human suffering. However, she was able to strengthen her faith, as she learned to depend completely on God.

At age 15, Mayoris went through a severe emotional crisis. The absence of her parents, spiritual loneliness, and an environment contrary to her beliefs led her into a deep internal struggle. However, God, in His infinite mercy, used a faithful sister in Christ from the Adventist church she attended to be a spiritual guide. Through her help and assistance, Mayoris found a permanent home at ICC's Las Palmas Children's Village.

Children her age are not usually accepted into Las Palmas, but after hearing her story and seeing her love for God and her desire to obey and be an exemplary young woman, the director completed the necessary paperwork and welcomed Mayoris into the ICC family. **It's support from ICC family members like you that made this possible!**

What follows is an excerpt from memories and a testimony that Mayoris recently shared.

What struck me most about the Las Palmas Children's Village was the lifestyle there: healthy eating, deep spirituality, tranquility, the peace that permeates the air, harmony, and constant communion with God. However, what touched my heart the most was nature in all its fullness: the earth, the plants, the crops, and even working with the tractor.

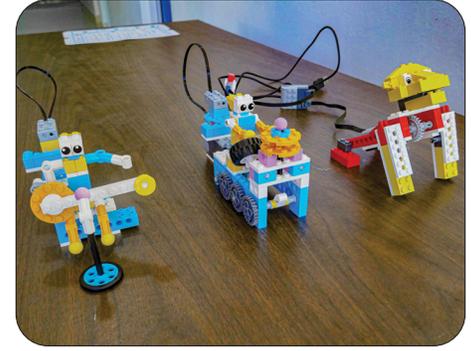
One of my most rewarding experiences was when I climbed onto the tractor for the first time upon arriving at the farm. I also vividly remember my first visit to the vegetable garden, where Barceló tomatoes and lettuce were growing. Every afternoon, I enjoyed eating three organic tomatoes straight from the garden, a simple but deeply meaningful experience for me.

Today I can say with certainty that (Las Palmas) was a place of complete restoration. It not only met my physical needs, but it strengthened my faith, healed my emotional wounds, and affirmed my identity in Christ. There I understood the truth of Jeremiah 29:11, as I saw how God transformed my plans and aligned my life with His will.

Continued on page 3

Project Spotlight – Las Palmas, Dominican Republic

The Impact of Your Support



Thanks to your continuous support, the children at Las Palmas receive traditional education alongside unique learning experiences like soap making class and Introduction to Robotics.

The impact YOUR support is having on ICC children can be seen in their growth and accomplishments as well as the transformations taking place in their lives. While these changes are slow and almost imperceptible in the short term, they are manifested over months and years. And that's why YOUR consistent support is vital. And as you'll see in this report from the Las Palmas Children's Village, the children are thriving – Thanks to YOU!

School is in Session Again

When the new school year began, the children were very happy with their new uniforms, new shoes, backpacks, and notebooks. The students were well prepared to engage in their studies again. All this was made possible thanks to the continuous efforts of sponsors and donors who enable Las Palmas children to thrive.

Along with traditional school subjects, the children also are challenged by unique learning experiences. This has included making homemade soap and learning the basics of robotics.

The Impact YOU provide through Pathfinders

Las Palmas children enthusiastically participate in the Pathfinder program offered to them. This is one of the formative activities for boys and girls. It trains them for useful life. In the Pathfinder club, children learn about God's love, His word, and how to obey. They learn new skills and experience the joy of teamwork and cooperation. Pathfinding also helps them grow and develop physically. Thank you for your support of this important program for the children.

The Pathfinder club has a lasting impact as can be seen in



In addition to excellent school and Pathfinder programs, Las Palmas children are given age-appropriate lessons in Sabbath School. In the accompanying photo, the children are learning about the sanctuary and the precious gift of salvation through Jesus.

the experience of Frankely, one of the recent graduates of Las Palmas. Frankely is always willing to share with the current generation of children the knowledge and skills he learned in Pathfinders. He enjoys teaching first aid and disaster preparedness. These are skills he has taken into his professional life as he works as an emergency responder. Frankely is very grateful and frequently comments that he is trying to give back what was once done for him.

A Special Christmas Celebration, Thanks to YOU!

One of the yearly events Las



Frankely, a graduate from Las Palmas, recently paid a visit to teach the children about first aid and disaster preparedness.

Palmas children look forward to with great anticipation is Christmas dinner. As you can imagine, before coming to Las Palmas many of the children experienced hunger, scarcity, and illnesses related to poor diets. However, through your support, these children have been able to prepare for and enjoy a special family Christmas dinner.

The mothers and fathers take great care to create a cozy and pleasant atmosphere. The children dress up for the occasion, and this, together with the delicious meal, makes them feel well loved. And at Christmas, when they hear again the story of Jesus and the great gift of salvation He offers them, it fills their hearts with joy, peace, and love. Celebrations like this are made possi-



Christmas dinner is a beloved tradition the children look forward to each year.

ble through the love of God in the hearts of sponsors and donors like you.

The New Birth Experience

This ministry not only prepares children for life on this earth, but most importantly, it encourages children to accept eternal life through the salvation that Jesus offers. A vibrant spiritual life flourishes at Las Palmas in the homes, at school, in Pathfinders, and at the village church. And when a child makes the decision to give their life to Jesus, there is joy in heaven and throughout the ICC family. At the end of the recent Week of Prayer, three of the children made the decision to be baptized as a public demonstration of their faith in Jesus and their desire to follow Him. **It's moments like these that make this ministry for orphan and vulnerable children so rewarding. Thank you for the vital role you play in transforming lives!**

To watch a special thank you video from Las Palmas, use the following URL or access

this QR Code with your mobile phone's camera.

vimeo.com/iccmedia/LPthanks



Three children were recently baptized. Praise the Lord!

Testimony of Faith and Calling Cont.

During that process, the Lord placed it on my heart to study agronomy, a career path I had never imagined, but which I now understand to be part of His perfect design. Through contact with the earth, nature, and creation, God showed me a beauti-

ful and therapeutic way to serve Him. I am currently in my third year, trusting that He continues to guide my every step.

Thank you, thank you very much to ICC for giving me the great opportunity to be part of such a wonderful program.

Thank you to each of my sponsors who have supported me so diligently, and I am certain that they do so with great love. With God's help, their efforts will never be in vain. May God bless you richly and abundantly.

A Visit to Las Palmas

By Wendy Clark



Las Palmas Pathfinders and staff with Rick and Sharon Fleck from ICC headquarters.

In September, I paid my first visit to our ICC children's village in Las Palmas, Dominican Republic. What stayed with me most was the warmth—open smiles, eager conversations, and children undeterred by language barriers, repeating themselves in Spanish and taking my hand to show me their world.

Family life is the heart of the village. Younger children proudly showed me their rooms and closet spaces, while older kids read



My self-designated "tour guide" around the school and playground.

books, cared for a pet, or helped cook a meal. Parents prepare food in home kitchens using produce from nearby gardens and orchards. In one home, ripe mangoes nestled in a bowl on the counter. In church, each family shared a pew, a heartwarming picture of belonging.

The children love Pathfinders. During my visit, the church celebrated World Pathfinder Day and the world club's 75th anniversary. Dressed in uniform, the children marched to the front of the sanctuary, reciting the Pledge and Law and singing the Pathfinder Song with joyful confidence.

Music fills daily life at Las Palmas. Children performed throughout the Pathfinder service, and student musicians rehearsed challenging pieces at



A trio of "siblings" smile for a photo in their room.

the school. The weekend concluded with a concert by Dominican Christian singer-songwriter Wenner Bello, whose songs the children sang enthusiastically word for word.

Las Palmas exists because someone cared enough to build it, and it continues because others choose to invest in its future. A future gift through a will, trust, or retirement plan can help ensure this village—and others like it—remain places of hope and stability for generations to come.



The family in Orchidea House gather for a photo.

Participate in Good Stewardship

At ICC, good stewardship is a top priority--donor money is sacred and should be treated as such. We have set up certain fund accounts which are used as urgent needs arise. This month, we want to let you know of funds that are dangerously low should needs or emergencies arise. Please consider giving a special gift for one of these funds today.

- *Vehicle Repairs/Maintenance/Upgrades*
- *School Supplies/Books*
- *School Uniforms*

****Use the response insert to designate your gift or donate online today.****

forhiskids.org/donate



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.