

April 2001 Newsletter

Dear ICC Family,

Why a young mother went away and left her three little children at the home where she was working as a maid was a mystery. Her employer had been hesitant to hire a girl with three children. We don't know if she was desperate for help in her house, or if she felt sorry for the mother or the children. I don't know how long they were there, but one day the mother came up missing. The authorities were notified and the three children were brought to our city center in Guatemala. The oldest one was Jorge, then Christian, and the smallest was a little girl, Sebastiana.

When the children were finally declared abandoned and available for adoption, we went through our files of approved families. We wanted a family who were mature, who had no children, and who would be interested in an instant family of three children. The special family in the USA was excited and readily accepted the children. Our social worker saw them as a loving, stable family with Christian principles. They went to work on their documents. When the stack was finally sent down to Guatemala, the waiting began. Patience is a necessary quality for adoptive parents. But the day finally came when they went to Guatemala City to bring their new family home.

Every update by our social worker has been positive. The children adapted easily to their new home and the couple was thrilled to be parents at last. A telephone call from the mother this week was full of her excitement and her happiness. She was telling how little six year old Sebastiana can already read even though she hasn't gone to school yet. It is very evident that these children found a home where they are loved and appreciated.

Not long ago this family applied for another child. This time they wanted a little girl to complete their family of two boys and one girl. They were fortunate that there is a pool of children approved for adoption now, so they didn't have to wait. Claudia was brought to us by the court. We don't know a lot about her history except that she only had a mother who was not capable of caring for her. In a few months this little two-year-old will go to her new home, where I am sure the whole family will be eagerly waiting for her.

Several years ago a family in Canada applied for a child. They live on a ranch, where all the children have their own pony and plenty of room to ride it in. It sounded like a wonderful place for a little five year old boy, Jorge. He had come to us, soon after birth. He had been left on a doorstep in a plastic bag. This was during the years when adoptions were frowned on by some in authority. It was difficult to obtain the necessary documents for adoption. But, finally he was ready for a home of his own, and the adoption committee felt that the Powell family was the right fit for Jorge. I happened to be there when this couple came for their little boy, and it was a happy time. They were thrilled with him, and he acted like he had always known them.

I remember going to a nice restaurant with them and Jorge. At the city center, the children eat with spoons. He was bewildered with all the different utensils by his plate. With a waiter standing behind them at attention, Jorge looked around at all of us as we

picked up our forks. Cautiously, he picked his up. Looking from one to another, he began to eat, doing a great job. The couple told us from the beginning, when they got home, that Jorge acted like he had always been there. His new grandma often wrote telling what a wonderful child he was and what a great addition to their family.

Just a few weeks ago, they went to Guatemala again to bring home a little sister for Jorge and their other three children. Michelle was brought to us as a baby with a group of other children, found in an adoption scam. Because of that circumstance, it took longer for the court to grant her abandonment papers. The adoptive father, a dentist, called recently to tell how well Michelle is fitting in. He says that the family is delighted with her and she has found her niche. Jorge is especially happy. He races around the ranch on his pony, even shows him in competitions, and I am sure that Michelle will have her pony too as soon as she is ready for that.

In the last few months, the Children's Court has changed their focus. They have decided that every child who can have an adoptive home of their own should have one. Adoptive families used to have to wait a long time sometimes, but now it is the children who are waiting for suitable, qualified homes. Families who have considered adoption should call our office, and talk to someone in the adoption department for more information. We are looking for Christian families where there is a full time mother to give these children the security and love they need.

We are happy to have two different programs to fill the needs of children. One is our country villages where 10 to 12 children form a family with house parents. The other is the adoption program for children who have been declared abandoned, usually younger children with no family ties. Some of you may want to consider making room for a child in your home. Others may prefer to be sponsors for one of the hundreds of children living in a home in one of the country villages. There is a special reward, promised in God's word, for those who reach out in love to homeless and abandoned children.

With our love and prayers,

Alcyon and Ken