



January 2004

QUE PASA

WHAT'S HAPPENING

A Publication of International Children's Care
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The Year in Review

Cambodia 65 children

The administration of our project is now being done by the local staff with our school now under the control of ICC. Our agricultural program is going well although we do need staff housing for our teachers.

Congo 204 children

Our rented facility in Goma houses the smallest children and those with health problems while our children in Beni are living in two rented homes.

The island of Idjwi in lake Kivu is where our children's village is located with two homes under construction. With so many children and only two homes, this means the children are sleeping four to a bed.

We have two temporary classrooms for our school but we need funds to build a formal school.

Our hydroelectric plant is operating and providing electrical power for our children's village, and we are raising money for a water system and a cassava grinding mill.

It is wonderful to see the significant, positive changes in our children just since their arrival in April.

Ghana 6 children

These children are living with local families while we look for a home to rent. Our first child, Maxwell, has entered senior high with an emphasis on engineering.

Guatemala 169 children

This past year marked the 25th anniversary of ICC's original children's village, Los Pinos. A permanent plaque was unveiled at the village entrance to honor the service and dedication of Ken and Alcyon Fleck to the children of Los Pinos.

Our new administrators, Joel and Sonia Carpio, have begun their tenure at Los Pinos.

This year we saw twelve children graduate from primary school, with six graduating from ICAP. A new program at Los Pinos to teach emergency first aid and rescue techniques to the children and staff had thirteen graduates!

We hired a new maintenance person. Our water tank has been enclosed with a roof. A new septic system for the campus was completed and remodeling of the homes continues to proceed. We do need to build housing for staff members so one of our existing homes can again be used for children.

Guatemala City Center 36 children

The program is going strong and adoptions have begun processing again after being on hold for a year due to international adoption regulatory issues. Eight families are currently waiting to complete their adoption processes and take their children home.

Dominican Republic 99 Children

Our remodeling efforts at Las Palmas are proceeding slowly as more funds are needed to complete the necessary restorations of the children's homes. One of the homes has been vacated due to its level of deterioration.

All grades of our school have been accredited and the school is now a model for the education system of the Dominican Republic.

Two of our children graduated from first grade this past year (signifying they can read and write), six from eighth grade and three from the twelfth grade, while two received their college degrees.

India 63 children

We have begun construction on our sixth home as well as a wall around the campus to prevent

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gent families from squatting on our land. A new air-conditioned van was purchased for transporting the children.

Many of our children were awarded highest honors at school this past year for both academics and athletics. Two of our children have fully recovered from near-fatal illnesses that came on after 300,000 people made a pilgrimage to a river that runs near our campus.

Mexico 49 children

Construction of the El Oasis on-campus school building has begun with the laying of the foundation, and the administrator's home is nearly completed.

Stanley and Herminia Valentine have become part of the children's services department at El Oasis.

Myanmar 47 children—36 additional children in refugee camps

We have been fortunate to have wonderful people watching over our children at the Mitte Gay Har Children's Village. Sadly, they are retiring from their administrative duties. A search for their replacements is underway.

Nicaragua 34 children

Ten of our children graduated from primary school (equivalent to sixth grade) this year.

We are in the final stages of negotiations to purchase property that would become the site of our children's village in Nicaragua if we can acquire the funding for this land. The cost of this property is \$40,000. Also, we are working on nearby donated property to establish a farm and finish a house on that property to be used as housing by construction volunteers for the new children's village.

Philippines 22 children

We have closed the receiving center in the city and have moved all the children to the children's village where we now have three homes. All the staff and children are living together in the same three homes. We need to build staff housing for our social worker, teachers and administrators so the children's homes can be used accordingly.

Our new administrators, Allen and Maritess Branson, arrived in September and are expecting their first child soon.

We have only one usable room in our school and need to finish a second classroom.

The government is donating fruit trees and seeds for our campus agricultural program.

Romania 41 children

We have opened our first children's home, and the first of our staff housing duplexes is ready to have the roof installed.

We have purchased a new van to haul supplies for the campus, and construction of a greenhouse has begun for growing vegetables.

Sri Lanka 47 children

Our third children's home is now complete and is ready to take in another ICC family.

Thailand **KIRSTEN JADE RESCUE CENTER** 59 children—58 additional children in four refugee camps.

A vocational center has been built at KJRC to teach sewing. A shampoo industry has been started in conjunction with SIFE. SIFE is a volunteer organization from the La Sierra University business school.

A permanent home for our administrators at KJRC is currently under construction.

Ukraine 10 children

Pastor Bostan and his wife are caring for the children in a donated house. This program officially became a part of ICC in 2003, our latest endeavor.

Zambia 10 children

Our second children's home is now complete and we are working on a campus agricultural program with the assistance of Riverside Farms.

Rachel, who with her eight siblings were the first children to become part of our Zambia project, is attending boarding school and doing very well.

As you have read, God is richly blessing "His Kids." Please pray with us for the future support of these special lives.



Who and where are these four young people? From left to right they are: Eunice Rodriguez, Sardy Rodriguez, Karyelle Fleck (serving as a student missionary) and Damaris Rodriguez. They are attending graduation ceremonies at the Las Palmas Children's Village in the Dominican Republic. You can read the story of the Rodriguez family in Alcyon's newsletter on the inside of this issue of the *Qué Pasa*.

A Personal Message

January 2004

Dear ICC Family,

I am often asked the question, “Where do the children come from that ICC takes in?” One would expect to find some basic problem in an area where there are many orphaned and abandoned children. It is true that there are civil wars that leave the children as victims. There are other catastrophes that make orphans out of the children. However, even though there are wars, famines, earthquakes or hurricanes that tear families apart and leave in their wake helpless, orphaned children, we find that most have come because of tragedies within their families. It seems to all boil down to the fact that children are the victims of traumatic situations, including desperate poverty, alcohol, domestic violence, and other social problems in our world today. The basic qualification for a child to be accepted by ICC is the simple need of a home. The look in the eyes of one of these children tears at your heart; the look of fear, hopelessness, desperation, and hunger. For the years that I was actually out there receiving these little miserable waifs, their faces, so full of pain, haunted me. Those who found their way to us would soon change into bright happy children. But, what about the thousands of others around the world who would die in misery?

It is this constant stream of hurting children around the world that has impelled ICC to keep growing to the limit of our resources, and beyond. We always seemed to be on the edge, where faith has to take over. The directors who worked with me, would remark, “You don’t ever seem to be able to turn a child away, even those who might not fit into the guidelines.”

After their last trip to The Palms, Rick told me an interesting story. It all began in the years when I was still Director of Children’s Services and spent a lot of time at the different facilities. I was helping Gladys at The Palms, when I noticed a woman with several children sitting on the ground under the spreading tree out near the gate.

“Who is that woman with the children out there under the tree?” I asked Gladys.

“Well, that is a mother who came quite a distance to see if she could leave her children with us. The problem is that we are trying to keep the space for children under eight years old, like the guidelines say. Her children are mostly older than that.”

When Gladys told me the mother’s story, I suggested we go out and talk to her.



Damaris

Homes For The Homeless

“Inasmuch as ye have done it unto one of the least of these my brethren, ye have done it unto me.” Matthew 25:40

The children were thin and poorly dressed. The mother was fighting a losing battle to care for them. Her husband was apparently on his deathbed. Also, she told us, "I can't afford to send them to school. It is all I can do to get a little food for us."



Eunice

The children's faces were eager. They saw other children running around that seemed so happy. I couldn't resist the hope in their eyes. They wanted to stay.

"Gladys, can we make room for these children?"

Gladys was a director who was always careful to follow the guidelines. "Yes, Señora, we can make room for them, if you say we can make an exception to the rules."

I turned to the children, asking each one, "Would you like to live here with us and go to school?"

Their eyes brightened, "Oh yes! Please can we stay?"

I turned to Gladys, "You know we can make exceptions. This mother is a Christian, and she came a long way to find a Christian place for her children. Let's keep them!"

The children stayed with us. First, we took them to the warehouse to find outfits for each one, and then we took them down to the house that would become their new home. That mother was sad to leave her children, but she went away thankful that they would have the care they needed, as well as a Christian education.



Sardy

As Rick reminded me of the story, he smiled as he said, "Those children have done well. The youngest boy went back to his mother when her conditions improved enough and the father got somewhat better, but the three older ones are among our young people there. Eunice is one of our teachers in our school now with her college education. Damaris is also through college and is in charge of our library, and helps in other areas. Sardy is still studying. He wants to be a pastor and take theology and is hoping to go to college in Puerto Rico." Rick went on to say, "One of the girls told me that they are there because Mommy Fleck happened to be present when they came and made an exception to let them stay."

I just had to say, "Well, thank the Lord! He must have impressed me to see their need."

Just that one experience helped me to realize, again, what a difference in the life of a child we can make by giving them a home, with love, security, and with God's help give them a future. Every one of these children is precious in God's eyes, and they are precious to us too. On my desk here, in front of me, are ten introductory reports of new children who have come to us, some in Romania, others in Thailand, Cambodia and Nicaragua. Every time a new child comes into our system, it means another child to add to our budget. We try to have enough sponsors for every child, so that we can send all the budgets out to the different countries every month. The months roll around pretty fast, and it keeps us anxious sometimes and it keeps us praying. This is a program of faith, built of donations from people with hearts full of love and concern for hurting children. We want each of you to know that we realize we couldn't do this alone. It is your faithful support that has made International Children's Care what it is, with Heaven's blessing. Thank you from the bottom of my heart! And thank-you from Damaris, Eunice and Sardy!

With our love and prayers,

Alyow and Jen