



QUE PASA

WHAT'S HAPPENING

A Publication of International Children's Care
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A MOTHER'S LOVE FOR HER SONS

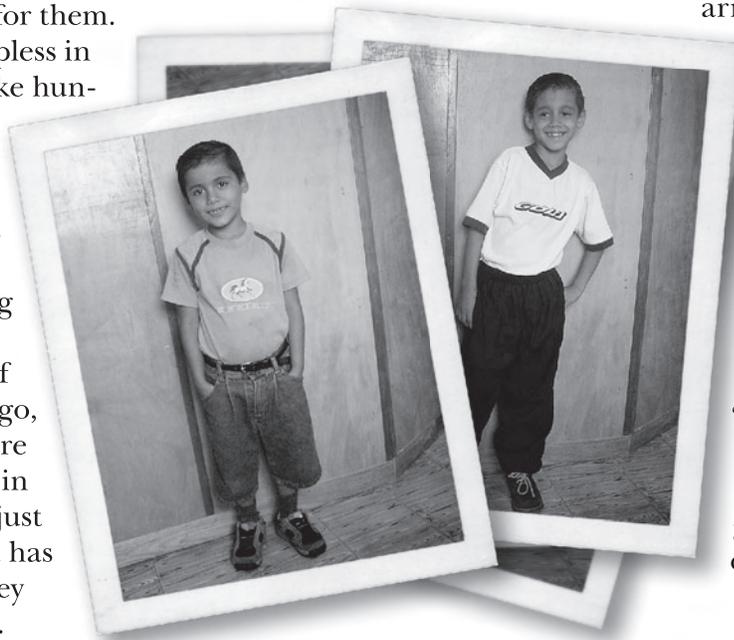
One last taxi ride

Young boys trail after their mother, still depending on her to provide for all their needs. They need parents to provide shelter, food, clothing and, most of all, love for them. They are virtually helpless in dealing with things like hunger, and extreme poverty. One of the reasons International Children's Care exists is to provide a loving family home for young children that have no parents to take care of them. Eight months ago, Joel* and Manual* were two of those children in need of help. Here is just a glimpse of how God has blessed them since they joined the ICC family.

what she could to provide for their young lives. Sonia listened to her story and made arrangements with the government to see what could be done for the

boys. A judge evaluated the case and gave the order to send the children to Los Pinos. Joel and Manual's mother died just a few days before the boys actually arrived back at Los Pinos, but her wish had come true. Her little boys would have a new mother and they would not grow up alone, on the streets.

From their arrival at Los Pinos until now, the boys have been so happy to be on campus. They immediately called their new house mother, "mom" and entered into the life of the village. Manual, a 2nd grader, and Joel, a 1st grader, are both described as cheerful, active and healthy.



A taxi entered the gates of Los Pinos Children's Village in Guatemala and pulled up to the administrator's home. Sonia, our director of children's services, came out to find a very frail and sick woman with two young boys clutching her hands. This single mother was dying of AIDS and wanted her children to have a family before she died. One can only imagine the heart-wrenching thought of leaving your children alone. She was doing

—Continued on back page—

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My name is Jairo

I need a sponsor. I am 14 years old and live in Guatemala. Please return this coupon to sponsor me each month. Thanks!

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A Personal Note

Dear ICC Family,

It was ten o'clock at night when the bell from the front door of the Receiving Center in Guatemala City was urgently ringing. The nurse on duty hurried to the door, thinking to herself, It may be the police bringing another child off the street! Peering out the small window to check who was there, she saw the police car in front with the red light on. When she opened the door, one of the patrolmen carried in a small boy, about four years old.

"What happened to him?" the nurse asked, noticing the black and blue marks on his face.

"This is a terrible situation," the patrolman answered. "Neighbors called us to come. They had found this little fellow alone in the house with the battered body of his brother, about five. Apparently the mother had beat the boy to death and then left him there on the floor. Before leaving, she also beat this little fellow unmercifully. We think he was alone with the body of his brother since early in the afternoon."

It isn't unusual for the police to bring us a child in the middle of the night. We are a protective shelter for cases like that. The police give a report to the Children's Court, who investigates and try to determine the identity of the child, and then they decide what should be done. It can be a case of a lost or stolen child, or, in this case, child abuse.

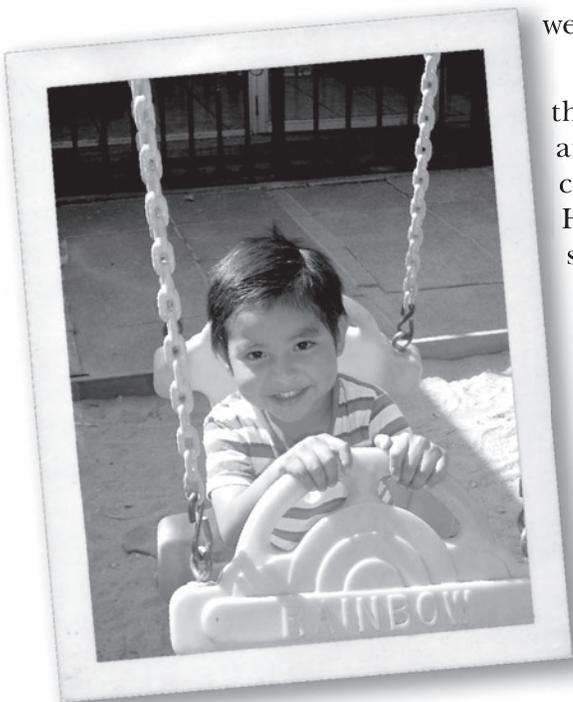
In questioning the little boy they called Juanito*, they learned that the mother left the boys both badly beaten, but Juanito could verify that his brother didn't die immediately. The evidence on the child's body showed the effects of the unmerciful beating he had suffered, and the bruises all over Juanito's face, head and body led them to wonder that he didn't die too.

When the authorities followed up on the case, seeing the scars and bruises his mother had inflicted on Juanito, they ruled that he should stay at The Pines where he was receiving the care he so much needed. No one can know for certain how long these little boys had been so brutally abused before, but we do know those scars can be lasting.

However, children are amazingly resilient when they find that they are now safe and loved. They won't be hungry anymore, and, most of all, they soon learn about Jesus, who loved the little children. They hear stories about Him and sing songs about Him. All of this brings about healing to the deep wounds and scars in their little hearts.

A year and a half has gone by. Juanito is now a happy, intelligent little fellow. He is ready to go out to The Children's Village at The Pines, where he will be given a permanent home in one of the cottages, and where he can soon go to school.

I can tell you, from my years of working in ICC, that experiences like this one can keep you awake at night! Seeing the battered little boy come to us in a police car and hearing that he had spent several hours alone with the body of his little brother, is just a little glimpse of what children are suffering.



God doesn't want us to shut our ears and eyes to the pain that goes on around us. I am so thankful that He had a plan for us almost thirty years ago, where we can be His hands and feet down here on this planet to do something tangible, to bring hope, healing, and homes to suffering children. Most of all, they can learn what love is like, and that it comes from their Father in Heaven who is "the Father of the Fatherless."

Thank you, each of you who have made this program possible. We count on you to help us help suffering children.

With our love and prayers,

Aleyou and Jen

ROSITA'S STORY

Every day the newspapers of Guatemala publish pictures of children who have been stolen, and the parents are pleading for them to be returned to their homes. But the chance of finding them is very remote.

This is the bitter nightmare the Perez* family had to live with.

One day in the summer of 2006, Rosita* was happily playing with her two little sisters in front of their house. Suddenly a car stopped; two women got out and snatched Rosita and took her away. Her parents desperately looked everywhere for her, and they put up her picture everywhere they could. As time passed, their hope of ever finding Rosita started to fade. Her father, who suffered from severe diabetes, got much worse, and their home was filled with sadness.

The kidnapers saw that Rosita's picture was all over the place, so they went to the police saying that they had found this little lost girl. They brought Rosita to Los Pinos, where she adapted very quickly and was happy participating in all the activities which are directed by the teacher. Also, she participated in church activities appropriate for her age. Many months went by while the authorities were trying to find her family. When they found the Perez family, they sent them to Los Pinos to see if we had their little girl. When Mr. and Mrs. Perez came to Los Pinos, they immediately knew this was their little Rosita – they cried and hugged, and they were so thankful our staff had taken such good care of her and that she was in such good health. After some legalities were completed, Rosita got to go home with her mommy and daddy.

These people told the personnel at Los Pinos that they were very poor and they didn't have any gift they could give to thank them for the wonderful care they had given to Rosita. But we who work at Los Pinos know that the blessings that the Perez family asked of God are being felt each day in our work at this home.



Mothers love continued

Both of the boys love to participate in programs and activities. Their happy spirit, despite the tragedy of losing their mother, is a blessing and is evidence of the love they've received in their new home. Through this relationship with their new mother and family, they can experience the joy found in a relationship with their Heavenly Father also.

Isn't it amazing to think that these two young boys have a chance in life to become wonderful instruments for God? Not every orphaned child in Guatemala gets this chance. Funds are limited. ICC can only take in these children because of caring people who will sponsor them and make it financially possible. Through God's loving care Joel and Manual have a Father in Heaven who has held onto their hands, and who will patiently watch over them. They are "His Kids."

By Liana St. Clair

Dominican Van Fully Funded!

The response to our special Update bulletin of last January was proof again how much people who support ICC care about the disadvantaged children of this world.

Thanks to your generosity, the costs for the repairs to our van in the Dominican have been completely covered. As you may recall, the floor of the van had large holes in it that had been created through corrosion. Now the van can be repaired and it will be able to provide many more years of service to ICC's children in the Dominican Republic.



EL SALVADOR CAMPUS NEEDS!

NEW WINDOWS

Accidents have caused broken windows in numerous homes on campus. We have decided that it will be cheaper to replace these with louvered windows. The cost is \$750 for all windows to be replaced.

DIGITAL VIDEO CAMERA

Joel Reyes, our El Salvador Administrator, is planning to create a presentation to show while visiting the US. Joel hopes to create more awareness of the ICC El Salvador project. Please help us provide the Salvador project with a digital video camera.

If you would like to make a donation, please call 360.573.0429 here at ICC HQ. Thank you so much for your support.

Cost of Toe Surgery Covered

In January we told you of one of our children who had suffered a severe injury at our El Salvador project. Her toe was nearly severed by a corn mill. She was rushed to the doctor where her toe was reattached. The young lady has recovered and is doing very well.

As this young girl needed to be treated at a private clinic, there were costs involved for the surgery to reattach the toe. In the January '07 edition of the Update we requested help from our readers in defraying at least

some of the cost of the treatment for reattaching the toe.

Thanks to your generosity, all the costs of the surgery have been covered. We would like to offer our heartfelt thanks to you for extending your love and support to this young girl by helping us care for her.



Wills

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Contact Doug Congleton at ICC for more information on how you can become part of the "Legacy of Love"

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