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QUE PASA

WHAT'S HAPPENING

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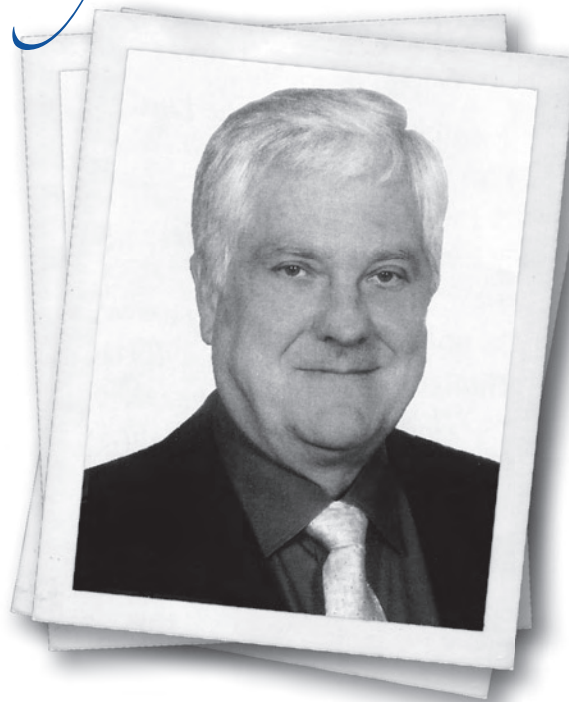
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A family member is at rest

On May 20, 2007, all of us in the "ICC Family" lost a wonderfully dedicated family member. William Edward Colson fell asleep in Jesus on that day and left the rest of us to carry on his legacy of love for our ICC children in Mexico. Bill and Bonnie Colson have taken it upon themselves to do a lot for the children of El Oasis to make sure that they have homes to live in, food to warm their stomachs and the knowledge of Jesus to stir a fire in their hearts.

I have been amazed at the dedication that this family has kept in the forefront of their lives as long as I have been at ICC. I have written to Bill and Bonnie many times over the years and have given them updates on the progress of El Oasis in Mexico and how it is changing the lives of those special children there. Without fail, Bill and Bonnie, along with their family and friends have always answered the call at ICC for help and have supported Gods' work for "His kids."

All of us at ICC are saddened to have temporarily lost a friend and family member. The chil-



William Edward Colson 1941-2007

dren of Mexico have been so grateful to Bill and Bonnie for all that they have done to not only change, but in some cases, to save the lives of children in the El Oasis Children's Village. I will be leaving in June to travel to El Oasis to work there and I will be talking to all of the children again about Bill and Bonnie. I know that there is a sadness that goes with losing someone who has been such a wonderful family member, but I also know that there will be rejoicing at El Oasis in the knowledge that they will see Bill again soon.

Today, our friend is resting in Jesus. Today, we remember

—Continued on back page—

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A Personal Note

Dear ICC Family,

Ken and I have just returned from visiting Las Palmas in The Dominican Republic. The pictures of the events of that week are still fresh in my mind. I just need more words to express the joy and thrills of what we saw and experienced there.

It was during the months of my recent recuperation from hip surgery that an Email came from Dadeiva at Las Palmas. "Mami Fleck, Juan and I have set the date for our wedding on March 18 this coming year. Do you think it would be possible at all for you and Papi Fleck to come? This would mean so much to me."

Dadeiva was just over one year old when she came to us. It was at the beginning of our program there. At that time I was spending up to a month at a time, helping our new director, Gladys, to organize the program. We had our storehouse built, a director's cottage, and our first house for children. From the first, Dadeiva seemed like my little girl. Whenever I was there, she would find me in church and come to sit on my lap. At every major event in her life, there would be a message from her. While at the secondary school level, I was told that she had memorized the entire book of The Psalms. I could hardly believe it. People who had heard her assured me it was really true. I knew she was a bright, talented girl, but that seemed almost unbelievable. She has graduated from university in business, and is working for us there at Las Palmas. I knew I had to be well enough to make the trip for her wedding.

I knew that Dadeiva was going to marry Juan Santana, one of our boys at Las Palmas but I wasn't sure if I remembered him. However, I learned that he was the little boy who came to us when he was five years old. His father had abandoned the family and the mother had no support. Ken and I were happy to meet him and to know that he is in his last year of the Adventist University, studying business. Both Juan and Dadeiva are working at The Palms now.

You would have to attend a wedding at one of our projects to understand how this is really a major event that involves all the staff and families of children. The older children and staff were working late the night before, decorating the church and the gym area of our school, where the reception would be held. There would be a complete meal served with all the trimmings. The church was decorated beautifully, and was full for the service. Ken and I were honored to be their god parents, and according to the local custom, I walked the groom up and Ken brought the bride.

I asked Dadeiva if she thought her biological mother or any of that family would come, as I knew they lived nearby. "I don't know," she answered, "but my family are right here at Las Palmas, and all of these children are my brothers and sisters." It was clear to us, as we spent time there, that the family plan is very real to these young people, even after they grow up.

On Sabbath afternoon, all of the children and young people, who were old enough to remember us, met under the trees by the church. We sat in a circle, 40 or 50 of them. Some had already graduated, gone on to make their own lives, but they had come for this grand reunion. Ken and I asked them, going around the circle, to give us their names, how and when they came, and why. They told of their lives at the present and their hopes and plans for the future.

I was interested to hear Juan, the new groom, tell his story. He finished up by saying, "I am marrying Dadeiva tomorrow, and she is the star of my life."

It was a time we will never forget. Words can't express the emotions we felt, the love we experienced from them, and how much we love all of these children who have had a life because of ICC. I wish that each of you could have been there and seen the quality of these beautiful young people, and heard them express how thankful and grateful they are that they were rescued, given homes with love, security, an education, and most of all the privilege of knowing the Savior who died for them.



Mami Fleck & Dadeiva as a child

Space doesn't allow for me to tell the thrilling stories I heard from them, what God is doing in their lives, and how they feel about it all. But I plan to share some later. Gladys (retired administrator) was sitting by me, and as each one stood to talk, she would say, "Remember when he (or she) came." And I would relive that day. There was one young man who spoke that day in church and sang a special song. I was so impressed with his talent and sincerity. Gladys reminded me, "Remember how he was over a year old and only weighed nine pounds! His mother brought him in desperation. The doctor had given him up to die."

"Can that really be him?" I asked her. His story deserves to be told in more detail, and in coming months I hope to share that and others.

Later at the reception, we were sitting at one of the tables, and a handsome young fellow walked by, helping with the serving. "Do you remember the young mother who lived in that shack up the road, and was dying? He was the baby of the three we took in. And there is his sister!" Gladys pointed out a beautiful girl. All of these have stories of their own.

I have to tell you something thrilling that is happening at The Palms. They now have an orchestra composed of our own children. I had heard about this, but had no idea of what is really happening. Samilin, our director there, is a musical person who sings well and has organized and trained choirs and groups. But she wanted more. She dreamed of a music program and an orchestra.

Elder George Brown, former President of the Inter-American Division of Seventh-day Adventists, was an admirer and loyal supporter of Las Palmas. Through him, a group of business people who operate VersaCare in the US became interested in The Palms. They have helped in large projects through the years, including a water system, electrical system and remodeling of homes for the children. When they heard of Samilin's dream, they made it possible. They purchased many of the instruments for the children's orchestra, violins, violas, 2 cellos and flutes. Samilin found a teacher, who was also a conductor in a nearby town, and arranged for him to come and teach our children to play these instruments.

They furnished music at church and also for the wedding and reception. I was really surprised and impressed how well they played. I didn't hear any squeaks or off tunes! Apparently, any child who wants to learn and is capable is given the opportunity. Now, a forty foot container has arrived from our supporting office in Holland. It brought a piano and organ for their music conservatory, thirty computers, besides many other things that are needed. These young people are being given a real preparation for life.

When Ken and I boarded our plane for the return trip home, we had lots to talk about and remember. It isn't just The Palms that is doing so much for abandoned and homeless children. We have projects around the world now. It keeps us praying to provide the budgets every month for all of these more than 1,100 children. From the small beginning back in 1979 of one child and one house, God has done more than we could have dreamed. The magnitude of this responsibility is overwhelming at times, but we know that these children are all precious in God's eyes. He will continue to provide the funds and the people to care for these children.

There are constantly new places coming to our attention where children are dying for lack of care. We pray that God will continue to bless so that we can have the needed resources for the programs we have and open new ones.

We thank each of you from the bottom of our hearts for all of your sacrifice and loyal support.

With our love and prayers,

Aleyow and Ken



he Flecks with Juan & Dadeiva-today

Singing Fights Mosquitoes?

Mosquitoes (those little zooming devils) who become especially active during summer evenings, can be very annoying but are for the most part not dangerous or life threatening. If some blood-thirsty female mosquito decides you'd make a tasty snack, generally the worst you can expect is an irritating itch and some minor swelling.

At our Patmos Children's Village in the DR Congo however, they have serious problems with those little flying blood suckers. We aren't talking about that high-pitched whine from their wings as they dive bomb like Stukas to stab you with their proboscis or the irritating itch left behind after you've been skewered like a shish-kabob. No, we're talking about something much worse, the disease Malaria. To protect our children



Congo Children testing the nets

in the DR Congo from malarial mosquitoes, mosquito nets (also known as insectoid vampire barriers) and a powerful mosquito repellent (think OFF on steroids) are a vital necessity.

Last year, Wim Dewindt, Emiel Neuckens and Marieke Coorevits

of the Pennepoel neighborhood committee, where the three men live, traveled the streets of Mechelen, Belgium singing as The Three Wise Men. Pennepoel had decided to donate a portion of the proceeds from this annual Christmas fund raising ritual to ICC. The Singing Wise Men raised €600 Euros (\$777 U.S.) for ICC.

Through the compassionate efforts of the Pennepoel and these gentlemen, ICC Belgium was able to fund the purchase of 57 mosquito nets and some really good mosquito repellent. Thanks to Ronny Van Dessel of ICC Belgium and the Pennepoel neighborhood committee, our children in the Congo can enjoy the blessing of peaceful, mosquito-free nights!

Ken Wilson

At rest continued

him with great admiration and appreciation for the life he led, and for the amazing things he accomplished for others. Tomorrow, we look forward with great anticipation to be reunited with Bill when Jesus comes again. What an exciting moment that will be when Bill will see all of the children's lives that have been changed in part because of his and Bonnies' tremendous dedication and support. I will be excited to be there on that day!

Thank you Bill and Bonnie for caring enough to make a difference in the lives of the children who need it so much.

Doug Congleton

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If you would like more information about direct debits, please contact either of the Karens by phone at 800.422.7729 here at ICC HQ .



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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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