



April 2008

QUIE PASA

WHAT'S HAPPENING

A Publication of International Children's Care
P.O. Box 820610 Vancouver, WA 98682-0013

(360) 573-0429 • FAX: (360) 573-0491
VISIT OUR WEBSITE! www.ForHisKids.org

CONGO UPDATE & CHURCH PLANS

In January we told you of the war between rebels and the government of Congo. The fighting was disrupting any supplies from getting to our Patmos Children's Village. We were very concerned for the children and the staff.

We are very happy to report that a peace deal was signed in Goma calling for an immediate cease fire. Since the signing, things have calmed down and the borders have been opened. This means we are able to get the food and supplies needed for the children. Thank you for all of your prayers!

ICC would like to bring to your attention another immediate need at the Patmos Children's Village. After recent heavy rains, the campus church has collapsed. The church was literally propped up with braces to keep it from falling down. Large sections of the walls were missing and the roof had many holes. For some time now the children have been meeting off-campus in a temporary building because of the severe instability of the old church.

As this year's rainy season began, it was only a matter of time

before the church self-destructed. What's amazing is that it survived a 6.2 magnitude earthquake just a few weeks ago. No one was hurt in the quake but two of our homes sustained some damage.



Church prior to it's collapse

Now we face a larger problem. This was the only place on the Patmos campus where all the

children and families could meet as a group for church services, community meetings, and special programs.

Plans have been drawn up for a new church building. We are asking for your help. Our goal is to, as quickly as possible, raise the \$50,000 needed to make this church a reality. Please consider what you can do to help us establish a real church building for the children and families of our Patmos Children's Village.

When sending your donation for the new church, please designate it "Congo church" or contact Doug here at ICC HQ either by phone 800.422.7729 or email at Doug@ForHisKids.org.

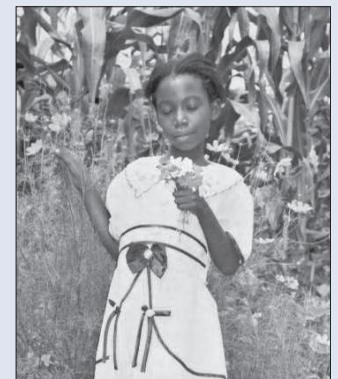
PLEASE SPONSOR ME!

My name is Divine

I need a sponsor. I am 10 years old and live in Congo. Please return this coupon to sponsor me each month. God bless you for helping me have a chance.

\$30 \$60 \$ _____

(800) 422-7729
Sponsorship Department



Memorials

Robert & Floy Carmen

By Norman & Darlene Knapp

Frances Clark

By Lola Genton

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Myrle Dean

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Jack Herbert

By Ardith Trubey

ICC BOARD CHAIRMAN

visits Europe

ICC's Board Chairman, Dr. Don Schafer, recently accompanied Rick and Sharon Fleck on a trip to the Netherlands and Romania. This was Dr. Schafer's first visit to ICC entities in Europe, and he was impressed by the smooth operations of the Dutch office and the ICC children's village in Romania. Dr. Schafer enjoyed spending time with the children.

Another purpose for Dr. Schafer's visit was to make health presentations to groups in both countries. He presented two lectures in the

Netherlands and four lectures in Romania. The lectures focused on the impact that diet and nutrition have on cancer and heart disease. Drawn from several recent studies, the lectures were well received in both countries.



Dr. Schafer visits the children

Save the Date!

You don't want to miss the final chapter of Mrs. Fleck's story as part of ICC's 30th Anniversary Celebration on Sunday, May 4th! The gathering time will be from 2:00 till 3:45 p.m. and will include a light salad buffet. The Anniversary Celebration Program will be at 4:00 p.m. and will feature the Chamber Music Group from the Las Palmas Children's Orchestra. We will also look at 30 years of ICC history, meet some of ICC's children who are adults today and have a special surprise. The Sabbath worship service on May 3rd will also be dedicated to ICC.

Both programs will be at Meadow Glade Seventh-day Adventist Church, 11001 NE 189th St., Battle Ground, WA 98604.

If you plan to come for the free light salad buffet on Sunday, please RSVP to Liana St. Clair here at ICC by April 15th. Our number is (360) 573-0429 or e-mail Liana Liana@forhiskids.org.

Remember, this is a celebration! ICC board members are planning this event and it is being funded by generous underwriters. No funds from our children's programs will be used for this event. For those who would like to give a financial gift for the 30 Year Anniversary of ICC, there will be an opportunity at our celebration for a free-will offering.

We hope you will be able to join us. If you can't attend, please watch for the May issue of the Qué Pasa in which Mrs. Fleck will conclude her exciting story.



Please reserve this date!

May 4th

A Personal Note

Dear ICC Family,

Milton and Estuardo continued their studies at the Mission Academy. Milton proved to be an outstanding student, especially in business. When the school received their first computer for the office, Milton was chosen to work in the accounting department and quickly learned to use it.

Even as an older student he continued to live at home in the Pines Children's Village. When his friends urged him to come and live in the dorm he told them, "No, I like my home. Besides, we have better food than you do in the cafeteria. You should just see what my house mother fixes for Sabbath dinner. It is a feast every week. I am willing to walk back and forth!"

One of the boys asked, "Could we come and visit your house and see what it is like?"

In that culture at that time, an orphan was considered a second class citizen. But Milton knew that the leaders of International Children's Care knew he was God's special child. Milton asked permission from his house parents to invite his friends home for a Sabbath. There were several of these young men, mostly from Guatemala City. They attended church with him, and then went home to dinner. Milton told me later, "They couldn't believe what they experienced. They didn't know we had such comfortable homes and they had never eaten such good food! Their ideas of orphans at The Pines changed drastically!"

When graduation day came for Milton and Estuardo, their mother came from Los Angeles, where she had gone, found work, and made a home for her younger children. She came several days early and announced to the boys, "I have succeeded in getting visas for you to come and live with me in Los Angeles."

Somehow, Milton didn't realize her real intent. He didn't know much about the outside world, and he thought it would be just a visit. She took them to Guatemala City to the American Embassy for an interview. She already had passports for them. Florencia had reason to be proud of her boys as they received their diplomas. But Milton had planned to go to Costa Rica to College with some of his friends, and that was his dream. When they boarded the plane for Los Angeles, the reality still had not set in that he would be there to stay. He really wanted to study in Costa Rica, but his pattern of obedience and compliance helped him to bridge the disappointment.

Juana called to tell us, "Milton's mother came to take the boys to L.A. I don't know what future she has planned for them, but I am worried about it."

We were worried too, especially when the news reached us that she had succeeded in getting them into the US Navy for a free education. Little did he or we know what the next seven years would bring before we heard from Milton again.

One day when Grizelda was about fourteen, her house mother sent her to Juana's office on an errand. Suddenly, another face flashed into the director's mind. "Grizelda, I can't believe how much you are looking like your mother! I only saw her that day she brought you to us. She was a beautiful girl."

Grizelda was stunned. She had never known anything about her birth mother, and, at this point, she wasn't sure how she felt about the woman who had abandoned her without a backward look.

A couple years later Juana opened a letter. "I am the mother of the little girl I left with you years ago. I would like to see her."

It was a bombshell! "What shall I do now?" she asked Maria Luisa, our social worker. Maria Luisa worked out of the ICC City Center in Guatemala City.

"Give me the letter," she replied. I'll try to track her down with this address, and learn more about her, what kind of a person she is, and what effect this may have on Grizelda. I think it is better to not tell Grizelda until we know more. This could be very upsetting to her."

continued from last month

When Maria Luisa called back she told Juana, “I found her. She had Grizelda when she was 14 years old, working in a bar, with no way to care for her. What she wants is to see her daughter. I just hope she doesn’t think she can get her back now and lead her into the life she has.”

Juana assured her, “I don’t think that would happen. Grizelda is a bright, ambitious girl. She wants to study business.”

It was finally arranged that her house father, Donaldo, and Juana would take her to Guatemala City and go with her and Maria Luisa to visit her mother. Grizelda was apprehensive, and really had no desire to see this person who had left her for so many years, but she agreed to go. “Don’t worry, her house father, whom she called Poppy, told her. I’ll help you.”

On the day that Grizelda waited at her birth mother’s door, she was fearful, not knowing what to expect. She had made up her mind that she would let her mother see her, and that would be that. She would be anxious to go back to her real home. No one could guess the emotions that filled her mind. When she finally faced the woman who had given her life, she felt no emotion toward her. This was just a stranger claiming to be her mother.

When the mother asked the social worker, “I would like for her to stay with me for awhile,” Grizelda vigorously shook her head. That was one thing she did not want to do. But Juana and the other two felt that she should spend one night there, possibly to give the mother a chance, but mostly for Grizelda to know her own mind. Donaldo, Juana and Maria Luisa left her there, with apprehension on her face, but they said, “Be civil to her. We will come for you in the morning.”

That evening Grizelda met her mother’s sister, where she learned a lot more about herself as a baby. Apparently this was the woman who had rescued her when she was a newborn, and living in a little back room behind the bar. “The authorities had discovered how neglected you were, and I agreed to take you and take care of you. When you came to me, you were near death, emaciated, filthy with maggots in your diaper and in your infected skin. I wanted to keep you, but your mother came to see you one day when you were 7 months old, and asked to take you for a walk. She never came back and I could never find out where she went with you. I thought you must have died.”

Later, back at the City Center, Juana talked to her. “Grizelda, don’t let hate toward your birth mother poison your mind. She was too young for responsibility. Be thankful for your aunt who saved you and loved you, but mostly be thankful for your Heavenly Father, who saw you as a helpless baby, a child that He has a plan for. He brought you to us where you could learn to know God and love Him. He must have something very special in mind for you.”

I hope to see you at the ICC 30 year anniversary celebration on May 4 when I will tell the conclusion of this story. There will be a special surprise for everyone who comes.

With our love and prayers,

Aleyou and Jen