



QUE 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

QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS FROM ICC HEADQUARTERS

We occasionally receive questions here at the ICC office. We thought it may be helpful to publish a few questions and answers in case there are others who have wondered the same things.

As always, we're more than happy to answer your questions or concerns.

Q *I notice that sometimes ICC requests special funding for the projects themselves when there are not enough funds to provide for the children's budgets. At that same time, I occasionally see that there can also be items like a building, vehicle or large capital improvement item for which ICC is requesting funds also. Why do you advertise for these large items when you need money for the budgets, and does my monthly budget contribution or child sponsorship donation also go to purchase these large items?*

A There is no question that ICC needs funds for providing for the children's budgets at each project. At this point, not one of ICC's children's villages is fully funded or sponsored. There are still many children who are available for sponsorship and this will always be our #1 pri-

ority to fund, no question about it. Any and all donation for budgets goes only for that purpose, project budgets.



However, some donors have told us that they would like to fund things other than items for the care of the children. There are always needs in our projects for capital improvements and equipment, and in answer to those donor's request, we occasionally offer these needs as well in our Que Pasa mailings. Please know that those things are in a restricted funds category that we've established. When funds arrive for specific items, ICC is able to move ahead with development or purchase of the much needed item. Because our proj-

ects are operating on tight budgets, there aren't sufficient funds within their budgets to provide for these other needs. Thus, when we promote these extra items and needs, it gives certain donors the opportunity to contribute to the overall success of the program – just in a slightly different way.

Q *Does ICC have an electronic newsletter that I can subscribe to?*

A Yes, and we'd be thrilled to send it to you every month. Just send your email address to Kenw@forhiskids.org and we will gladly include you.

Q *Why don't I hear as often from my sponsored child in Congo like I do from my sponsored child in another part of the world?*

A The Congo is a place where there is so much instability and strife today. Sometimes it is all our administrator can do there just to keep our kids safe out on the island of Idjwi. The overall condition in the country has made it extremely difficult to get information in and out of there. We will continually do what we can to improve communication, and given the

A Personal Note

Dear ICC Family,

The last few months of our thirty year anniversary I have been remembering a lot of things. How has God brought us to where we are now, considering our small beginnings? I had only thought of the immediate needs of children after the devastating earthquake in Guatemala. From my years as a missionary in third world countries I had dreamed of an orphanage where children would be placed in permanent homes, forming families. At the beginning there was only \$40,000 to build the first house. We were naive and inexperienced as to what it would really take to make it possible.

I drew up quite a detailed proposal as to how the plan would work. The overall goal was to provide homes that would give these devastated children the physical necessities, but most of all, the security, love, spiritual, mental, and emotional preparation for life. It was an ambitious dream and, as far as I knew, it had never been tried. However, a unique personal experience gave me the assurance that this was really God's plan for us. Ken was so convinced of that, he was willing to take an early retirement, venture out in faith with me, and depend on God for the resources for the project, as well as our own living expenses, as this would be a volunteer situation. There would only be funds at the beginning to use for the care of the children. Our lack of experience led us to think that \$10,000 would be a good budget for the first year. Needless to say, we had grossly underestimated the reality.

The rest is history. That original proposal is still the basis of ICC. We built the first house, and soon the original reason for the need in Guatemala, the earthquake of 1976, gave way to the devastation of a civil war there. The master plan for The Pines was dreamed up when Ken and I climbed the hill overlooking the proposed campus. It had taken most of the afternoon to get up there as Ken took a machete and cut our path through the waist high brush, hoping there were no snakes! From the brow of the hill, we sited the road that would form a U shape through the area, giving each home at least an acre. One of us would say, "Do you see that tall tree right over there? That will be the first house. Right over that other way can be the administration." Then the church, the school, etc., until we had 12 home sites and the necessary other buildings. We had not accepted children yet, and I remember saying, "I dream of a time when we can stand up here and hear the voices of children coming up to us, maybe a hundred!" Our dream hadn't included going beyond Guatemala. We couldn't have imagined working in 17 countries with over a thousand children!

The first house was barely finished and full of children, when we had to find a way to raise money for another. I remember a time when the military commander nearby was bringing us so many children that we had 15 in a house before the next one was ready. But that house mother told us, "Don't turn any children away. Bring them to me!"

At that time we only had Jacquie Christensen back in Vancouver, Washington, using her back bedroom for an office and volunteering her time as a secretary and treasurer.

Needless to say, every step we took was in faith, praying for the funds we needed, and there were some real miracles. God knew where to find the funds, and always just in time. Soon we needed more houses, as children were coming in faster than we had the space. We had the foundations started for three at one time, not knowing how we would get more funds. I remember that our builder told us it would take \$50,000 to finish them, so we, as well as Jacquie and our board members prayed. Then one day, Jacquie called me, "Alcyon, you aren't going to believe this. I got a check today for \$50,000, and it is from a man we never heard of before." Soon, we had four homes full of children, and we were starting another.

As we branched out into other countries, the Lord continued to supply our needs, and we began to see that God's plan for ICC was much greater than ours. As the program grew and expanded, our needs for funds demanded more and more organization and planning. People, who were supporting us, needed to know this was a stable organization. With all of the trained staff, both in the foreign projects caring for the children, and at our home office, we needed a budget to send each month to every project for children. We proceeded with faith and prayer and dedicated effort on the part of all of the ICC staff.

One of the most recent ICC projects is the focus of particular concern to us right now. Some of you may know that a group of people started an orphanage in El Salvador.

We were approached by some of those most interested in the children of that program, asking us to take over the project. We were assured that funding would not be a problem. There have been many dedicated donors who have continued to lend their generous support for the children, but unfortunately, funding has in fact become a critical issue for that project as revenues aren't sufficient to keep up with costs. Now, with that extra burden, ICC is faced with a major crisis that is coming at a time when the world economy is already a threat to us as well as all charitable organizations. We are praying for direction as to what to do with this project. The children involved, about 80, are at risk if we are not able to continue to keep the project going.

Ken and I talked sometimes of what we would do if there were a dramatic financial crisis in the US and our donations would dry up. For one thing we tried to be sure that each project had enough land to have gardens and become somewhat self-supporting. We have done that, and we have various projects operating in the children's programs. But, as any family knows, there is always the need for funds to take care of the children's needs. Our original plan included education for children by finding sponsors, and we wanted to let them go as far with their education as they were capable. As a result we have grown children in almost every profession and job.

There were many financial crises during the last thirty years, but God never failed us. However, now, as you all know, we are involved in not just a US financial crisis, but the whole world seems to be affected. Prices are escalating. The budgets that we send out are, more and more, not covering the real needs of the children. We have been cutting back as much as possible. But, these are our children. We can't send them back. They have no place to go. We don't know what the future holds, but we do know that God cares about children, and we still trust him. It will take more miracles to weather this crisis, and God is still a God of miracles.

Since Ken's death there has been such an outpouring response of love and regard for him that the ICC operating committee has proposed a plan to me "What do you think of creating a permanent memorial to Ken, and what would you suggest?"

I thought and prayed about it. I knew of his commitment to children and to ICC. Then, when I went to the special meeting to study the problem of the Salvador program, I thought, Why not make that a memorial to Ken? Thinking more, especially in the middle of the night when I couldn't sleep, I thought, With the help of our whole ICC Family, this could be one of our most exciting projects, turn a problem into a success! This would be a way for me to express all the admiration and love that I have always had for the Love of My Life.

My heart is in ICC and I am willing to use whatever ability and strength I have to help plan and promote this idea if God so directs. This would involve enlarging the capacity to at least ten homes, with all that is included in our regular master plan, each one as a family with a mom and dad. But this will mean a major Leap of Faith. We will need the cooperation of our whole ICC family to find a solution without endangering our other projects. You will be hearing more as we progress with this.

In the meantime I just ask that you will all pray that God will show us the way to go that will be a blessing to all our children. I wonder if we might end up with The Papa Fleck Children's Village in El Salvador! What a surprise that would be for him when he sees all those children in their forever homes in Heaven!

With my love,



PS: I need to mention that we need your support more than ever right now to be able to provide for the monthly care of the children that we are supporting around the world.

Las Palmas Children's Orchestra

For anyone who's been in charge of a pack of teenagers you can imagine what the visit of our kids from The Dominican Republic must have been like. Exciting, tiring, funny, enlightening, humbling, and ultimately, affirming.

As part of ICC's celebration of our thirtieth anniversary, several of our supporters suggested that the "Orquestrá Vivaldi" of our Las Palmas Children's Village be part of the festivities. Bringing this group to the U.S. was not a simple undertaking. With the help of numerous donors and organizations, the total expenses for their trip was underwritten.

The purpose of the group's visit was to perform a concert in celebration of ICC's thirty years. Under the direction of their teacher and conductor, Professor Frank Hernández, the orchestra gave an inspiring performance on July 12th, 2008 that garnered several standing ovations. Thanks to



grants from the Versacare foundation for a musical education facility at Las Palmas and for the violins, violas, and cellos, it was possible to create the "Orquestrá Vivaldi." The concert, was a rousing success. A DVD is being made

of the concert and there is also a music CD available, recorded in the Dominican by the orchestra.

But what to do with all those teenagers during those times other than when playing the concert? The group was taken to the major



sites of interest in our local area of the Northwest. A tour of the Columbia Gorge (e.g. Crown Point, Multnomah Falls), a trip to Mt. St. Helens and the Johnston Ridge observatory and a visit to Trillium Lake and to Timberline Lodge on Mt. Hood to experience snow for the first time. They also were blessed by enjoying American hospitality and cuisine at the homes of local supporters.

All of those who spent time with this group were impressed with the quality of these young people. These children are a testament to the significance and value of your compassion and support of ICC for these past thirty years. Thank you for your contributions that make it possible for us to change the lives of "His Kids."

Q&A - continued

challenges we face, we very much appreciate your continued understanding and support of ICC's children in Congo.

Q How much of my money actually goes to support ICC Projects?

A For the past several years, ICC's audited financial reports have shown that an average of ninety cents out of every dollar ICC receives goes to sustain the children's programs. It is through the many volunteers and much needed gift-in-kind donations that this can be accomplished. As you can see, God continues to bless "His kids" through ICC!

We trust that these questions have helped you to understand a little more of how ICC operates in order to provide for "His kids." It is only through you and others like you who care so much, that "His kids" are being given a hope in life today. Thank you for your continued support for these special children.



A Legacy of Love

*P*roviding for the future through planned giving

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

(800) 422-7729
Doug@ForHisKids.org