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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

"MANNA FOR TODAY"

A personal letter from the founder Alcyon Fleck

Dear ICC Family,

I would like to tell you some good news this month—a real praise to our God. But first, let me tell you a story as a backdrop.

It was about thirty-three years ago that I answered the phone to hear Elder Folkenberg's voice. "Alcyon, the Central American Union committee met yesterday and asked me to call you. I know you are aware of the tragedy here in Guatemala with the massive earthquake. Some reports say there are five thousand children left homeless. We know that you have been active in helping abandoned and homeless children during the years you spent in Central America.

"Recently we received \$40,000 to start an orphanage to help some of these children. We flew out here to the property of the new mission school in the undeveloped part of Northern Guatemala to look at the possibility of locating this new project here. We have approximately 2,000 acres of home-stead type land with a beautiful river running through it, and it seems like an ideal place to

bring children. Your name was unanimously voted to be the director of this new undertaking. What do you think?"

"Well, that is quite a bombshell, Bob. Tell me more. First of all, what kind of an orphanage are you talking about?"

"He answered, 'I suppose we would put another dormitory at the mission school.'

"I am not interested in that kind of an orphanage," I answered.

"What kind are you interested in?" He asked.

When I explained my concept of a Children's Village he replied, "That's exciting! Let's do that!"

I wasn't ready to jump in to such an undertaking yet. First of all, I wanted to know about the fund

—Continued on page two —



“manna for today” continued

ing. “The \$40,000 would just be the beginning, I understand that we would need to be volunteers and Ken would need to retire, but where would the money come from to feed the children?”

“Oh, that’s easy,” he said. “You just find sponsors for every child.”

It was the beginning of the venture that consumed our energies and dedication from then on. It has been the most thrilling and rewarding experience we could have imagined. But that answer that he gave me, “That’s easy. You just find sponsors for every child,” has been the means of rescuing hundreds of children, giving them Christian homes, an education, and, most of all, teaching them about their Heavenly Father, who loves them so much.

The sponsorship program has been an integral part of ICC, the part that furnishes the funds we need to feed and care for the children. In fact, it is what we call the “manna for today” that brings food and the necessities of life to hundreds of children every day;

the faithful monthly donations that our sponsors send every month. Sometimes a donor sends a large amount for a special purpose like another house, a school, a car or even a refrigerator, but it is mostly the faithful, often sacrificial smaller donations that our sponsors send that feed and provide the care for the children every day.

There are ups and downs in the economy, and we have had many of them, driving us to our knees to ask God to send the funds for the budgets that need to go out to every children’s village every month. But the crisis that we are now in has been the most devastating. It has been necessary to ask our directors in the different projects to cut corners wherever they can. So far no one has missed a meal, but now when an older child leaves, his bed is not filled. I can hardly bear to think of having empty beds simply because of a lack of funds. The truth is that in these hard times there are even more children who need to come. I heard yesterday that the children in our villages are aware of the situation and they are praying every day. I even heard that some of the older ones sometimes engage in special fasting and prayer about this situation. I know it is good for children to realize that God

is the One who supplies our needs, but we don’t want

them to feel the insecurity they did before coming to us.

Monday and Thursday mornings are our regular worship times at our Vancouver office. We discuss various needs, including any prayer requests from our donors, and we have special prayer. During this world-wide economic crisis, there has been little more we could do but pray. Of course, we have tried to keep you informed that ICC is really struggling financially. And Doug did send out a letter to many of our donors about this financial crisis. But we are very aware that only God can bring solutions to this situation.

The Good News

And now the good news that I want to share with you, since I know that many have been praying with us that God will help ICC through these difficult times. You will be happy to know that God has been hearing and answering. Many people have responded to this urgent need with gifts, large and small. But I would like especially to share about two very special gifts that have provided our children the “manna for today.” Recently we received a large gift from a will. The lady who passed away was a long-time sponsor and wanted to ensure that the children of ICC received support even after her death. The same day Doug received a call that took his breath away. Rick called me and said, “Mom, stay on the line. Kent is on the line too. Doug has something to tell us! God has heard us!”



Sponsorship is a blessing to all

Doug began, "I just had a call from a woman, who has been a long-time supporter. She asked me, 'What is the monthly budget for ICC to send to all the projects that you are supporting?'"

Doug answered, "I don't know exactly, but I'll find out. Just hold on."

When he came back and told her, she was a little taken back and said, "I don't think I can do that much. But I have received some extra money, and after thinking and praying about it, I thought, Jesus is coming soon. I don't really need all this. I'm going to ask God to show me what to do with it. When I prayed, I sensed that God told me, 'Send it to International Children's Care.' So there will be a check in the mail for you." When she mentioned the amount Doug just had to say, "Praise the Lord!"

All of us on the line were also saying, "Praise the Lord. He has come through for His children!" ICC received enough support from these and other donations that, while we are still struggling financially, God has provided the "manna for today." This gives us new courage for tomorrow.

It is thrilling to realize that it is really true what it says in Jeremiah 32:17, that "There is nothing too hard" for God. And also that it says in Jeremiah 33:3, "Call to me and I will answer you and tell you unsearchable things you do not know." (NIV)

At our next Thursday worship time, we talked about this awesome miracle and praised God together. Rick and Doug had more good news to share. This

same dear sister had called to let us know that she was sending another check so there would be a whole month's worth of funds for the children! She mentioned that she felt so blessed from giving the first donation, and she was specifically impressed by God to give this second donation. At the end of our prayer and praise time, Rick led us in singing, "Praise God From Whom All Blessings Flow," and there were not many dry eyes!

It is awesome to realize that these donations, some of the largest in our history, came in our very worst crisis, when the future of ICC was at risk. This reminds us that our extremity is God's opportunity. This is going to go a long ways in helping us to catch up, but the budgets for His kids have to keep going every month, and all our faithful sponsors who provide the "manna for today" will be helping to answer many prayers to provide for the children every day. We know that it is God, not our feeble efforts, who is respon-



Romanian project

sible for every good thing. He it is who takes care of every one of our nearly 900 children.

Thank you, every one of you, our ICC family, who have helped to give homes, love, security and a future to these children, those in our care now and those hundreds who have grown up in ICC. I hope this story about God's love, grace and providence gives you confidence that God, who is the Father of the fatherless, continues to bless and sustain this work for His children. I pray that He will richly bless you for your continued support.

Aleyou

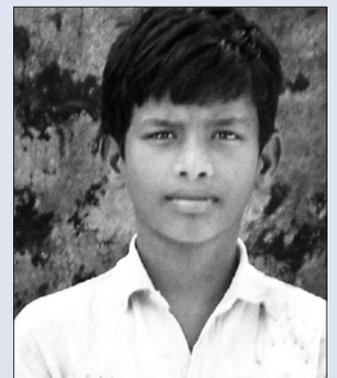
PLEASE SPONSOR ME!

My name is Ruhan

I need a sponsor. I am 10 years old and live in India. 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



Pineapples



Have you ever had a garden? Some tomatoes, cucumbers, corn, maybe even zucchini?

From your garden you got fresh vegetables, better nutrition and less money spent at the grocery store. Our children's villages each use their gardens and farms to accomplish the same goals. Several of our projects have been able to use their farms to offset their operating costs.

Our Las Palmas Children's Village in the Dominican Republic has been growing pineapples on their farm for on-campus consumption and for sale to the public. A few weeks ago we received a report on the progress of our pineapple project from Mario Lora, our business manager at Las Palmas.

Mario told us that the first harvest of pineapples from their original planting of 22,000 plants was excellent. In fact, the number of pineapples harvested

was so great they had a hard time selling them all.

The extra crop was given to the homes for their use and as Mario puts it; "Our children did get the opportunity to eat pineapples in abundance—more than we could count."

The second harvest produced very good results as well. Buyers have commented that the Las Palmas pineapples are unequalled in quality and of superior size.

Currently the Las Palmas pineapple plantation is in its third cycle of planting with a total of 25,000 plants in the ground. This staggered planting cycle assures that the pineapples will be available throughout the year. This number of plants also provides Las Palmas the ability to recycle the harvest into new plantings, thus eliminating the cost of buying new seedlings for each new planting cycle.

What is needed now are resources to expand the plantation as demand dictates. Right now, we are the lone farm in our area growing pineapples. This means there is no market to which we can sell any plants we can't reuse in a new planting. Those plants must be plowed under. Rather than plow under these plants we would like to be able to use them to expand the plantation or, in the future, sell them.

We would deeply appreciate your help, large or small, in growing this pineapple enterprise. It not only benefits the children of Las Palmas, through cost savings it also provides the resources for us to expand the reach of ICC. Please prayerfully consider what you can do to help. Thanks again for all you do for "His Kids."

Container of Love!

Well, it finally happened. After many months and many delays due to red tape, we have shipped our most recent container load of goodies. Our latest container arrived in Guatemala loaded with supplies for the Los Pinos Children's village!

This container shipment also represents something of a record. With all of the wonderful and much appreciated help we received, we loaded this forty-foot container in one day start to finish, by hand. Be watching for some video on the ICC Facebook page and on our website in the next couple of weeks showing the ICC HQ staff and friends loading the container.

So muchas gracias to all of you who donated funds, time and muscles to another container-load of love. We here at ICC, the children at Los Pinos and all the children living in our projects, deeply appreciate all you're doing on behalf of "His Kids." We cannot do this without you.

