

QUE PASA

WHAT'S HAPPENING

A Publication of International Children's Care
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GIVE THANKS

by Sponsoring a Life!

“I’ve never forgotten you and I have always felt that I am your daughter. When people have asked if I was lonely, my sister and I would always say that we never were because we knew that you always loved us.” Amazing words, heartfelt in their delivery, and a tremendous blessing to the recipient.

These are the words of a young lady that was an ICC Child for about 8 years living in one of our projects. This young lady arrived at our project as a small girl with her sister, and they lived the largest portion of their childhood years with ICC. She was, and is, “my daughter.” As her sponsor, I was blessed to be able to see her when I would work at the project she lived in. I have

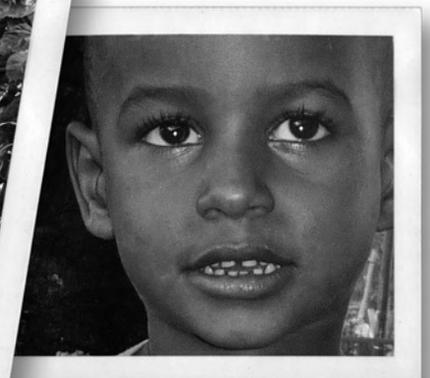
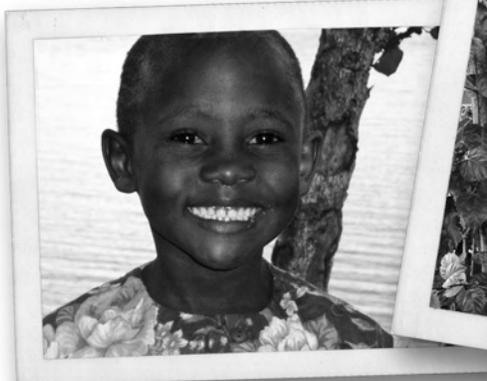
always had a feeling of care and concern for this young girl ever since I started sponsoring her long ago. It was a sad day for me when the government found one of her extended family members and placed her and her sister in that home. It all happened so suddenly and I never had the chance to say goodbye to her.

I have always wondered what was going on in her life and if she ever remembered me. One day last month, one of our workers, Daniel Ixcot, was traveling in the country this girl is from and he stopped for a quick bite at a small pizza restaurant. While he was eating, an older teen-

aged girl tapped on his shoulder and asked him, “Are you Daniel Ixcot?” When Daniel answered that he was, this girl went on to tell him that she was an ICC Child, and she quickly asked him “Do you know where Doug is now?” To make a long story short, I have now been in contact with this young lady and I was so blessed to hear from her. She has never forgotten!

This is just one short story of the thousands of stories of children who have never forgotten those who care enough to give them the gift of sponsorship. These children know that they have a life today because of ICC and those special people who choose

—Continued on center page—



[Some ICC children needing sponsors - there are many more!](#)

A Personal Note

Happy Thanksgiving!

Recently, I watched a documentary called *Desperate Crossing*. It chronicles the story of the Pilgrim's crossing of the Atlantic in the *Mayflower* and how they struggled to survive that first winter in the new world. Nearly half of those who made the voyage died before the first Thanksgiving. I was struck by the desperate conditions they faced and how death was a common occurrence. Truly, those who survived had much for which to be thankful when they celebrated Thanksgiving in 1621.

Three hundred ninety years later, in the modern world in which we live, it's difficult to comprehend this day-to-day struggle for survival. Yet, in the developing world, it is a reality that many experience. The plight of children is particularly sad. Circumstances often thrust them into situations where they are helpless – and often hopeless. If they have lost one or both parents, they depend upon the social fabric of their extended families. But when that fabric unravels, well, that's the place where ICC works and that is our ministry – to provide homes and families for innocent and suffering children who are orphaned and abandoned.

This Thanksgiving ICC is celebrating not only all for which we have to be thankful, but also the addition of new children to our ICC family! Xavier* is one of those children. He's five years old.

Xavier's little life turned upside down when his mother died. Unless one has experienced a loss like that at such a young age, it's difficult to imagine the raw feelings that just won't heal, especially if your biological father is just that – biological – without any natural love or affection. This was the reality that Xavier faced as his father wouldn't have anything to do with him. He was then sent to the only family member that would accept him, his grandmother.

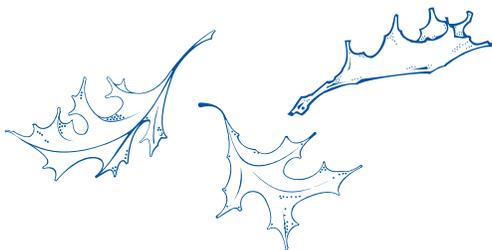
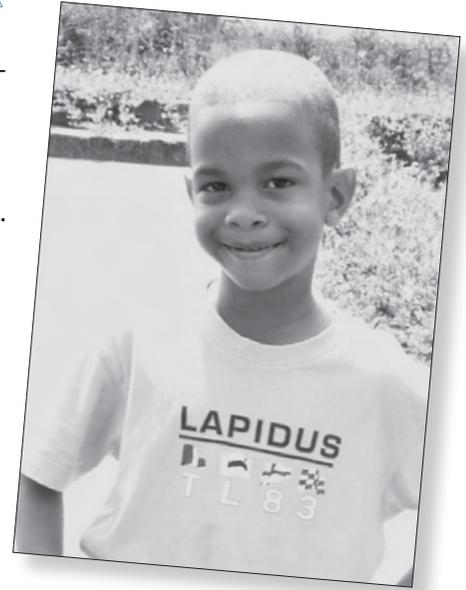
In time, his grandmother's economic and physical condition became so frail that she could no longer provide the care that Xavier needed. With no other family members offering to take care of him, what would happen to Xavier? He was...

Too young to survive on his own and

Too old to be a good candidate for adoption in his home country.

Such is the case with countless children like Xavier who fall through the cracks in desperate societies and cultures. When families fall apart and government resources are limited, with the strong support of ICC donors we are able to intervene and, in the case of Xavier, welcome him into the ICC family.

As you gather around your Thanksgiving table this year and recount the blessings that God has given you, please remember Xavier and all the other children who gather around their family tables at ICC children's villages. They only have a place at the table because of you and others like you who continue to support them. They are truly thankful to be part of a family, to belong, to feel secure. This Thanksgiving, these are blessings that help our ICC children thrive.



On their behalf, thank-you and Happy Thanksgiving.

In His Service,

Kent Greve

International Development Director



Give Thanks – continued

to become a sponsor, a “mom or dad” to them in their stormy lives. These people are special to them, people who have given them a hope for today, and the dream of a tomorrow.

I can't find the words to say to express what this providential meeting and conversation has done for me in my life. I can tell you that it is an amazing blessing to sponsor a child here at ICC. There is no amount of money in this world that can create the feeling of truly making a difference in the life of someone who was lost, alone and without hope. To be that person for someone who needs to know that they are loved is a special blessing from God. I guess that I can tell you that for me, it is just a little taste of what heaven will be like for all of us.

PLEASE SPONSOR ME!

I need a sponsor. I am 13 years old and live in Mexico. Please return this coupon to sponsor me each month. God bless you for helping me have a chance.



\$30 \$60 \$ _____

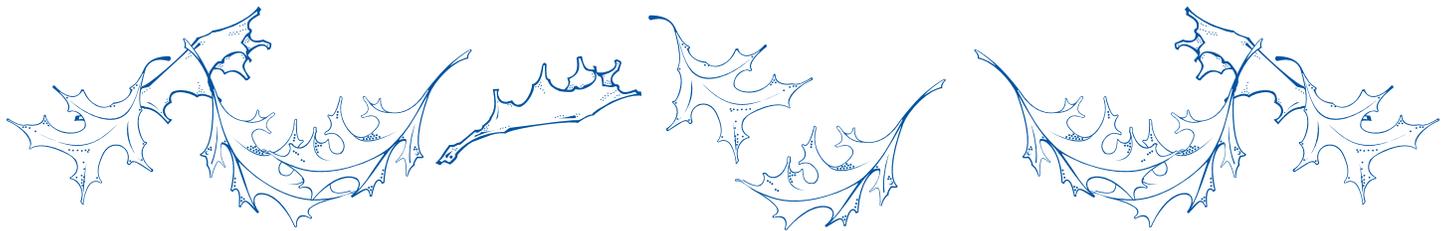
(800)422-7729

Sponsorship Department

This Thanksgiving, please open up your heart and consider giving the gift of sponsorship for a child at ICC, or please send us the name and address of someone you know that would like to be blessed in the same way I have been.

Yes, sponsorship definitely changes the life of the child, but I can tell you from personal experience, it just might change your life as well!

Doug Congleton
ICC's Executive Director



Bring ICC home for Christmas!

We have a limited number of specially-made Christmas ornaments available for purchase. The proceeds from these ornaments will be used to help with the cost of bringing the children of ICC a wonderful, memorable Christmas dinner.

Each ornament costs \$10.00 which includes shipping. Our ICC logo is silk-screened onto each ornament and the first one hundred ornaments will be individually signed by Alcyon Fleck.

Please call ICC today at 800.422.7729 or send a check to: P.O. Box 820610, Vancouver, WA, 98682; marked “Christmas Dinner Ornament.” Thanks so much for all you do for “His Kids!”

CIRCLE OF HOPE

The little girl stood outside the fence and watched

as the children inside ran and laughed kicking a ball and climbing the monkey bars. Oh how she wished to be inside with them. Oh how she wished to be one of them and play and laugh like they did. Her clothes were dirty and torn. Patches of dry blood were still visible on her back and her head from the beating her drunken mother had just given her that morning. As she stood there, she felt lonely. Somehow she had survived that morning's beating but she knew she had no place to go other than back to her alcoholic and drug addicted mother. Life for her seemed hopeless. Fortunately for Lidia, one of the teachers supervising recess at the playground noticed her and took her to the principal who in turn referred her to one of our ICC villages for orphaned, abused, and abandoned children. Today, Lidia is a successful teacher in a small Adventist school in Central America. Talking about her experience at the playground that day, Lidia said to me, "That day heaven opened for me. In a moment I went from a hopeless and destitute street child, to a happy girl, in a real family with a mommy and a daddy who loved me."

On Sunday, December 4, we will be hosting our biannual Circle of Hope event, in the fellowship hall of the Meadow Glade Adventist Church in Battle Ground, Washington. This is a great opportunity to invite a friend or family members with whom you may want to share the ministry of ICC. Join us and be inspired by how the Lord is using ICC to bring hope to orphaned and abandoned children and snatching them from the fangs of death. You will be treated to powerful testimonials and mission stories from those who have been there. We will be sharing the experiences of orphaned and abandoned children like Lidia--children who found refuge and the everlasting love of a Savior through the ministry of ICC.

The street is a very dark and lonely place, especially for a little homeless child. Be part of the miracle and help us bring the light of hope to more children dying in darkness today.

Come and enjoy a cup of hot cider by the fireplace. There will also be dessert and fruit drinks for all those in attendance. We would love to see you there.

Please let us know if you plan to attend so we can save your space. You can call us at the office or you may contact Joel Reyes at joel@forhiskids.org. We look forward seeing you all there.



Joel Reyes

Director of Public Relations

