



February 2012

QUE PASA

WHAT'S HAPPENING

A Publication of International Children's Care
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PRAISE GOD FROM WHOM ALL BLESSINGS FLOW!

Last year at this time, we announced a very special financial program at ICC. A generous supporter agreed to help initiate Alcyon's Angel Fund with a pledge to match donations up to \$200,000. What a tremendous blessing this has turned out to be for the children and mission of ICC! Just take a look.

- 252 individuals gave 335 donations towards this program totaling \$243,438.57.
- The matching donor extended the original pledge to \$250,000.
- The total amount received so far is nearly a half-million dollars!

We only need \$6,561.43 to reach the new goal. Every donation counts, no matter the size. The children of ICC continue to depend upon the impact of many small donations that help to make up the "manna for today" upon which they depend.

If you're not familiar with Alcyon's Angel Fund, it was initiated to provide a funding buf-

fer during "lean" months when resources fall short of the need. It is designed to ensure that all of our projects receive their full monthly budgets required to care for the children. As a direct result of this special matching donation program for Alcyon's Angel Fund, we were able to continue providing excellent, on-going care to ICC children

through all of 2011. What a blessing! And furthermore, we were able to take in new children in a few select projects! This included children like Xavier whose mother died and whose father wouldn't have anything to do with him. Xavier's story was featured in the November Que Pasa.

—Continued on back page—



Alcyon in the early years at ICC

A Personal Note

Dear ICC Family,

Sharon and I have the privilege of visiting the ICC children's villages. We work with the administrators to train and encourage them. We talk with the house parents, teachers and children. They all express their appreciation for the loving support they receive from so many people around the world who are willing to sacrifice for them. "Tell my sponsor I love him (or her)" is a frequent request from a smiling child.

A few months ago we made our way to our children's village in Congo. It is located on the island of Idjwi in Lake Kivu. After the many hours of airline travel to go from the USA to Europe to Africa, we landed in Kigali, Rwanda. Désiré, the administrator of the Patmos Children's Village, met us there, and the next day we drove to Congo, crossing the border at Goma. The ICC partner organization that manages the children's village is PROLASA, and they have an office there in Goma. So we spent some time working with the accountant on some financial issues.

The next day we left early to drive down to the port at the lake's edge to board the PROLASA boat that would take us across the lake to the children's village, about a four hour trip. The boat is a simple one that is used for transporting construction materials, food, supplies and a few passengers. The forty horsepower outboard motor could only power us at about five to eight miles per hour, and we sat in some plastic chairs enjoying the equatorial sun!

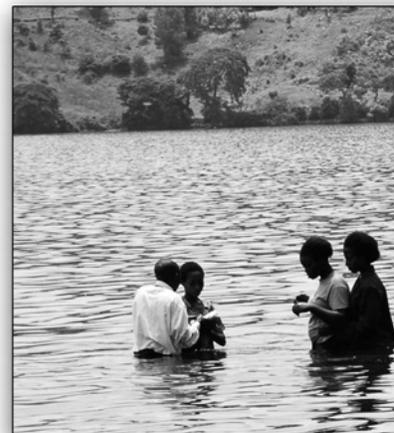
The day was calm, and we arrived without incident. The children were gathered at the water's edge singing and dancing as we arrived. We were all very excited to see each other, and we had a nice time exchanging greetings – many hugs all around.

We were thankful for the safe passage because travel on the lake can be quite dangerous. Included with this *Que Pasa* is a special letter that tells of a terrible accident that occurred on Lake Kivu in late December. We are fortunate that none of our ICC Patmos children were lost in this tragedy. However, what occurred continues to have an impact on their lives as does the increasing costs of providing quality care for them. I encourage you to read the insert and assist these children if possible.

One of the reasons for our visit was to participate in the dedication of the new church building and also the official organization of the church by the local mission officials. On Sabbath the church services started at 8:30 in the morning. Three other Adventist church congregations joined us that day, so there were about 1,500 people in attendance. Since there were so many people, they had the services outside on the hillside by the lake. They put up a shelter with a tarp for the platform, and all the people sat on the ground on the hillside. There were some trees for shade. They call that spot the Galilee Church, because it reminds everyone of what it might have been like when Jesus taught the people by the Sea of Galilee.

The church service was much longer than usual because they had a baptism in the lake, they had special services by the mission president to officially organize the church and elect officers, and they ended about 3:30 in the afternoon with a special Communion Service. As I washed the feet of one of our teenage boys, it was especially meaningful there by that beautiful lake. This boy and I washed each other's feet that day, two people very different in culture, in background and opportunities, but with a strong common bond in the saving mercy of Jesus Christ Who died for every single one of us, no matter what part of this earth we may call home.

That boy had experienced horrible things in his life, but he now has experienced new opportunities and possibilities, and he has learned about his Creator who cares for him and has prepared a home for him in Heaven. Yes, he will certainly face difficulties and challenges along his path as he makes his way in life there in Congo. But he will also always have the saving knowledge of Jesus, and I



hope that one day he and I will together experience a better Earth where the darkness of this one has disappeared because of the brightness of the light of God.

On Sunday, we had a very special service in the new church with officials from the Mission to dedicate that building to the Lord. It was certainly a time of rejoicing as they recounted the Lord's wonderful blessings to the Patmos Children's Village, especially the blessing of having that beautiful church building. We especially appreciate the Quiet Hour organization that provided a significant portion of the funding for that church.

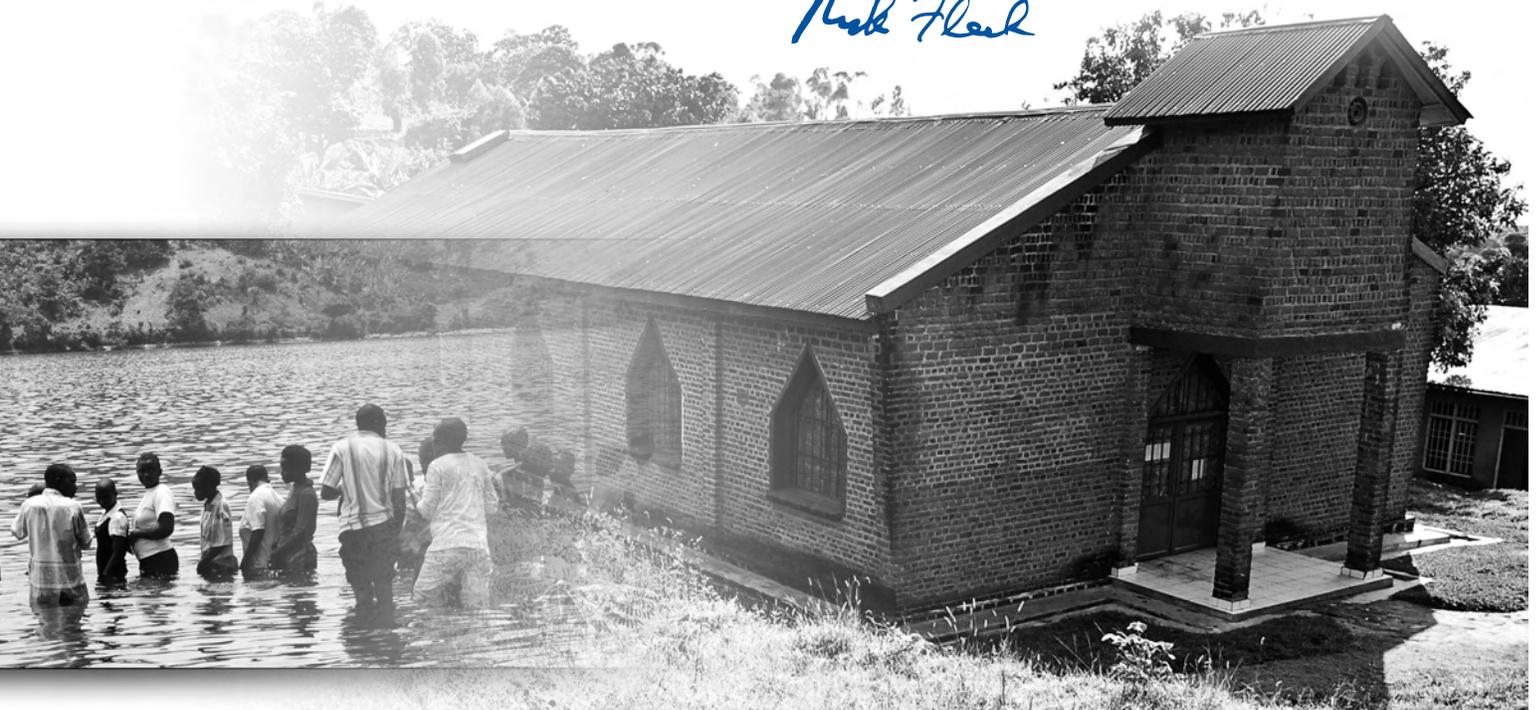
During our visit with our Patmos family, we became aware that the budget that we are sending them is not adequate, and we need to increase it significantly for 2012. They are struggling to have the appropriate staff to give these children the care they deserve. Prices have gone up for just about everything, and we found that they don't have enough money to give the children an adequate and nutritious diet. We are stepping out in faith and are raising their budget, and I am certain the Lord will inspire His people to respond to the need for more funds and more sponsors.

God has certainly blessed ICC over the last 33 years, and I know that He will provide for the needs of His children during 2012. But the amazing thing is that He does it through you and through me! We are His hands and feet to bring relief from suffering for these children. He depends on you and on me to do what we can.

May God richly bless you during this new year, and I pray that you will open your heart to His still small voice. Most of all, I pray that this year will be the year that we see Jesus our Lord coming in the clouds to gather us together and take us to the place He has been preparing for each one of us. There we will see each of these orphaned children – rejoicing together in God's love and grace!

In His service,

Rich Fleck



Praise God - Continued

Xavier is now blessed to be part of a loving, caring family within an ICC home.

Alcyon's Angel Fund is named for ICC founder, Alcyon Fleck, who recently celebrated her 90th birthday. Alcyon is still going strong and financially supported the matching donation program. "My real reason for doing it," according to Alcyon, "was to show people that I supported it and that I appreciate the cooperation of people in this ministry." She stated that "the person who established this matching fund wanted to create a plan that others might like to follow."



Perhaps you have the capacity to also create a matching donation program for the benefit of ICC children through this special fund. If you establish such a program you can double your money and your satisfaction, and you'll play a critical role in ensuring that ICC children continue to receive the best possible care. For further details and possibilities please contact Doug Congleton at 800-422-7729 or dougc@forhiskids.org.

If you participated in the matching donation program, please accept our heartfelt gratitude for providing such a wonderful blessing. Alcyon's Angel Fund continues to be one of the many avenues you can use to bless "His Kids."

Memorials

Dale Adams

By Mr. & Mrs. Herb Franzman

Leonard Ballance

By Mr. & Mrs. Jeffrey Ballance

Josiah Barrett

By Mrs. Bea Barrett

Don Bartholomew

By Mrs. Susan Patzer

Shari Booth

By Mrs. Marsha Booth

Deloris Brothers

Mr. James D. Brothers

Gordon & Mary Brown

By Mr. & Mrs. John Wilkes

Caleb Evan Byers

By Mrs. Heidi Byers

Carolyn Byers

By Ms. Betty Lou Boyd

Mrs. Heidi Byers

Mr. and Mrs. D. Reid McCrary

Scott M Christensen

By Mr. & Mrs. Milton Christensen

Wilma Conley

By Mr. & Mrs. Fred Smith

Dennis Cox's Mother

By Mr. & Mrs. Fred Smith

Carl Dobbs

By Mr. & Mrs. Herb Franzman

Don

Mr. & Mrs. Fred Smith

Blanche Dull

By Mr. and Mrs. Don Rosen

Mr. & Mrs. Don Wysong

Mr. and Mrs. Don Rosen

Ken Dull

By Mr. & Mrs. Don Wysong

Mr. and Mrs. Don Rosen

Dean Edwards

By Dr. Ottis Edwards

Floyd Graham

By Dr. & Mrs. Griffith Thomas

Ray & Jean Greve

By Mr. & Mrs. Leslie Scofield

Mr. & Mrs. Mitchell Thiel

Florida Living SDA

Ms. Ona Mae Greve

Mr. & Mrs. Robert Greve

Mr. & Mrs. Leslie Scofield

Vi Guttenfelder

By Mr. & Mrs. Herb Franzman

Melvin V. Harris

By Mrs. Ethel Wall

Melvin Holm

By Mrs. Dorothy Holm

Dee Jackson

By Dr. Richard Gerlic

Doug Kilcher

By Mrs. Susan Patzer

Carol Knittel

By Mr. and Mrs. James A. Gruber

Arno Kutzner

By Mr. & Mrs. Don Wysong

Jenny Leavens

By Mr. & Mrs. Herb Franzman

Dr. Jim McNeill

By Mr. and Mrs. Ken Burke

Mr. and Mrs. Robert Carroll

Dr. & Mrs. Howard Gimbel

Mr. & Mrs. Lyle Helm

Dr. & Mrs. Gordon Johns

Ms. Patricia Williams

Bob Meyers

By Mr. & Mrs. Herb Franzman

Babe Nelson

By Mr. & Mrs. Don Wysong

Lucinda Nevis

By Mrs. Mary Jane Nevis

Bob Nichols

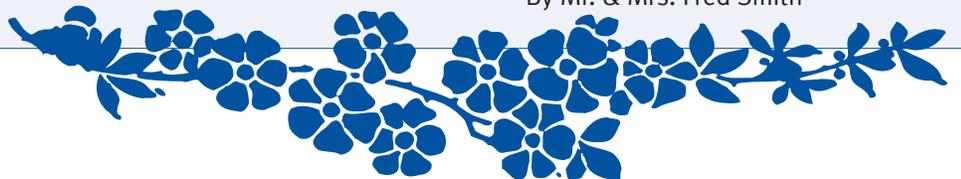
By Mr. and Mrs. James A. Gruber

Lester Park

By Mr. & Mrs. Dudley Snarr

Pat

By Mr. & Mrs. Fred Smith



CONGO TRAGEDY



[Photo of actual rescue](#)

I am Désiré Murhima, the administrator of PROLASA, the partner organization that manages the ICC Patmos Children's Village in the Democratic Republic of Congo (DRC). For me it is a privilege to be able to write to all the ICC donors in America. First, I want to thank you, on behalf of the children, for all you do to help our children and many other children around the world.

But today my heart is heavy because of a tragedy that happened here, and Rick has asked me to tell you about this because he says that he is certain that our Creator will touch many hearts to respond to our urgent needs.

On the afternoon of December 28 the PROLASA boat was returning to the Patmos children's village across Lake Kivu. It carried food for our children and building materials for our secondary school. There were also 15 passengers, the boat captain and his helper. A storm suddenly came across the lake. The winds blew with a mighty force. Waves crashed against the boat. Heavy rain began to fall. The storm became so violent that it capsized the boat. All the food and building materials sank to the bottom of the lake.

Immediately when I heard the news, I sent the ICC speed boat from Goma to help rescue the passengers. A boat was also sent from Idjwi Island. Other people tried to help including some local fishermen. The passengers had life jackets, but I am sad to report that only 10 of the 17 people were rescued. The search continued until the morning, but it was in vain because there were too many clouds with heavy rain and no lights. Two of our ICC children were in the boat when it capsized, but we are so thankful that they were rescued.

Since the accident, I have been working with God's help to solve many problems. One of my deepest concerns is finding \$5,166 to replace the food that was lost. It was a month's supply and included such things as 66 sacks of corn flour, 8 sacks of cassava, 7 sacks of rice, 6 sacks of sorghum, 6 sacks of beans, 130 kgs of sugar, 40 liters of kerosene and 320 kgs of vegetable oil. The building materials cost \$7,686 and included 50 sacks of cement, 10 sacks of lime, over 100 kgs of nails and 220 sheets of corrugated metal. In addition we are obligated to pay for certain costs that are a result of the accident and rescue operation. This is another \$15,609.

I have experienced that our Heavenly Father has a special way of taking care of ICC's children. I know He will continue to provide for us and help us find the money that we need to recover from this accident. I thank Him for the opportunity I have to write to you and ask for your help. I very much appreciate any contribution you can make to assist us.

Rick suggested that I also share something else with you. ICC and its supporters around the world have been a wonderful blessing for orphaned children in my country. Though the support from ICC started in a small way at first, it has grown as more individuals have joined in providing for the needs of our children. God has used ICC to help save the lives of these children. However, ICC has never been able to provide the full amount of support that is needed. We have understood this and have tried our best under difficult circumstances. This has created challenges that we have tried to face with God's grace. These include only having the capacity to provide two meals per day for the children and hiring only house moms for the family units.

When Rick and Sharon visited in October, we discussed these issues and decided that we could not delay in making needed improvements for the care of the children. We are stepping out in faith to provide a third meal for the children each day. We will also include house fathers as part of our paid staff. This will help provide male leadership and role models in the families.

I believe that this step of faith is a big one for us, because these and other needs have increased our budget by a little over \$5,000 per month. But I also believe that we serve a big God who is very much interested in the needs of his little ones. Will you also care for them and help us to cover these increased costs?

By God's grace, we are doing our best to prepare a generation of young people who will work for Him. Thank-you for continuing to help us with this mission. Please pray for us, and if you can assist us with the needs I have shared in this letter please designate your donation as either "Congo Accident" or "Congo Budget." On behalf of the children, I thank-you and may God bless you abundantly.

May the grace of God be with us all,

Désiré Murhima
Administrator
ICC Patmos Children's Village DRC