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QUE PASA

WHAT'S HAPPENING

A Publication of International Children's Care
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DIGGING OUT AND THAWING OUT IN ROMANIA

A black and white illustration of a shovel digging through a pile of snow. The shovel is positioned diagonally, with the blade buried in the snow. The snow is depicted with a textured, crystalline appearance.

“Let’s pray for more snow!” the children excitedly said to one another. School was closed early that day because power had been lost. Our ICC children in Romania were excited by this turn of events, and they hoped that more snow would mean less school! They didn’t realize that more snow was exactly what they would get – about 3 feet in all!

Perhaps you followed the news reports recently about the severe weather that held much of Europe in its icy grip. In some parts of Romania, temperatures

dropped to 22°(F) below zero, and snow piled up to six feet deep. Many elderly people were entombed in their homes as snow covered windows and doors blocking out the light. Entire villages were cut off from the outside world. To make matters worse, there was a change in government during this time, and it caused delays in mobilizing relief efforts throughout the country.

During the crisis, our Administrator in Romania, Gabi Costache, sent an urgent message asking for prayer. She reported that heavy snow caused extensive damage to our greenhouse. Pictures of the structure show twisted metal and broken glass. We still don’t know the full extent of the damage. However, unless it can be repaired quickly, the

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Matching Funds



ICC is blessed to have supporters who are willing to act when they see that “His Kids” have a pressing need. Many of them also want to provide a way for other supporters to join them in relieving these needs. Recently we published a story in our newsletters concerning shortfalls in the operating budget for our Patmos Children’s Village in the DR Congo. Because of the budget issues our staff were only able to feed our children two meals a day.

This was a not an acceptable situation for one of our supporters. She quickly emailed Doug Congleton, ICC’s executive director, about ways to close the gaps in the Patmos budget. Thanks to this amazing lady’s efforts a revolving matching fund has been created in which you may participate.

Each month, this rotating matching fund will double your donation until a monthly total of one thousand dollars in donations has been acquired. That means that each month your contributions to our Patmos operating budget—regardless of the amount—can become as much as \$2000.

This is not an opportunity to be missed. You can make a significant difference for our children at Patmos by becoming a regular contributor to this matching fund. Please contact ICC today and let us know that you want to double the power of your donation to “His Kids” living at our Patmos Children’s Village. Please mark your donations “Congo Matching Funds.”

God bless you all!

Digging out - Continued

food supply we depend upon for our children will be seriously affected.

Another challenge the project must overcome is increased heating costs due to the extreme cold. More wood than normal was used to keep the wood furnaces supplying hot water to the heating units.

Fortunately, for now the heavy snow has stopped. But there is a new fear – flooding!

Please pray for our children and staff in Romania and consider giving a little extra financial support to them during this time of crisis. Project budgets remain tight, and our children continue to depend upon our faithful family of supporters to provide for their needs and help them weather the storms they must face. Thank-you for all that you continue to do for His kids!

Kent Greve

*International Development
Director*

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A Personal Note

They call him Papi Chepe

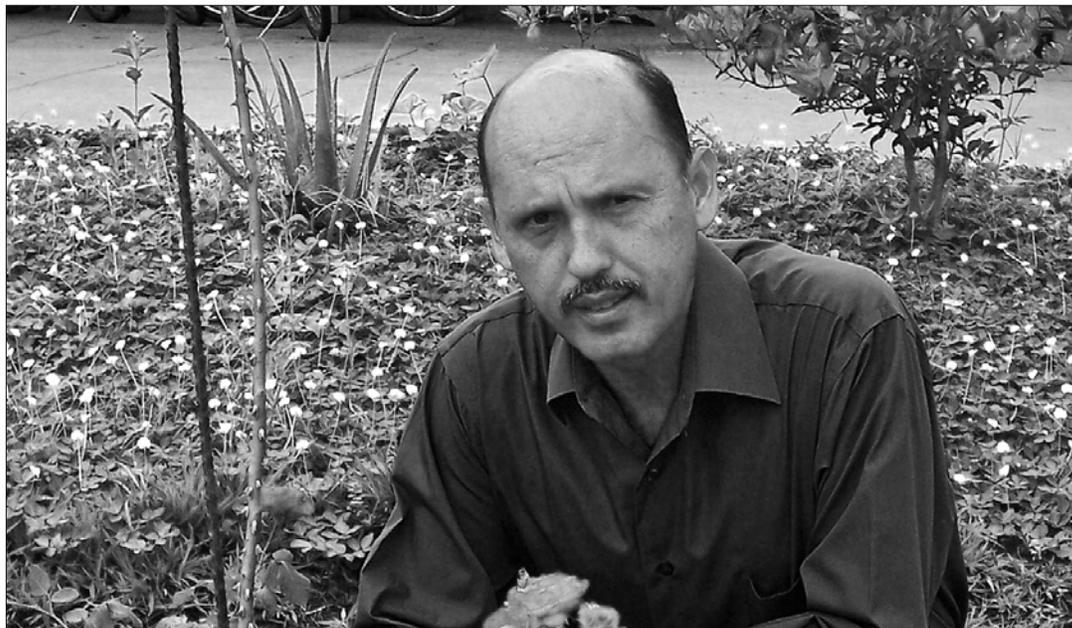
His name is Jose but the kids all call him Papi Chepe. Like many other youths in El Salvador during the civil war, Jose was forced to serve in the army. One night while the battalion rested, the guerrillas attacked their barracks. Before the night was over only a few men remained alive. Jose was badly wounded and laid bleeding among a pile of dead comrades. As the guerrillas combed the area looking for survivors to finish up, Jose buried himself under the corpses of his dead friends. As Jose shares this story with me he shakes, "I was sure I was not going to make it" he says quietly, "there was only one road through which we could get re-enforcement and the guerrillas had it blocked". Jose laid with the dead the whole day. It was not until that evening that the wounded could be evacuated, by then Jose had lost consciousness. He woke up in a military hospital bed connected to tubes and wires. It took him a while to realize he was still alive. The doctors told him that he would have to be patient because his wounds would take a time to heal; furthermore he would need further surgeries and lots of physical therapy to be able to walk again. Jose cried. He could not believe he was alive. He could not understand how he had survived while most of his battalion had perished. Later he found out that only 85 soldiers out of 400 had survived the attack. All of them had been wounded. Time went by and as the doctor had warned him, the process was a very slow one. One of the bullets had destroyed all the bones and ligaments on his right ankle. The doctors did the best they could to repair it but it was a very slow and painful process. Jose entered a state of depression. He had never before taken time for God, but now as he laid there in bed, day after day he thought about the night of the attack. He replayed the event in his head time after time and every time he would wonder; "Why me? Why did God save my life? I was there with all the others. Why did He spare me?"

As in the story of Job, God revealed himself to Jose. He began to feel that God had something very important for him. He didn't know what it was but he knew He would reveal it to him. After his honorable discharge from the army Jose met a beautiful Christian young lady by the name Yanira. She shared her faith with him and helped him understand how much God loved him.



One day Jose decided to surrender his life to the Lord and be baptized. He promised the Lord that he would do whatever He showed him, and go wherever He sent him.

Jose and Yanira Arqueta are house parents today at our children's village in El Salvador. Jose and his lovely wife, or Mammy Yany as the children call her, have been serving our children in El Salvador for over 15



years. Now Jose fights in a different kind of army, under the command of the general of generals, Jesus Christ. Many adult children from our ICC project in El Salvador trace their success as adults to the care and upbringing they received as sons and daughters of Papi Chepe and Mammy Yany.

Jose's experience may be unique in itself, yet every one of our house parents has a unique story to tell. They all came to work at our children's villages because they felt a call to the ministry. Most of them have endured very rough times. It is not easy to raise teenagers, especially when you have a house full of them, yet they go on day after day, aware that the fruit of what they do every day with the children surpasses what they can see. Every year children graduate, get married and move out to build families of their own, yet they never forget. They realize that they never grew up like orphans. They were the sons and daughters of a loving family. Many come back years after to the home they left to visit "their parents".

We thank you from the bottom of our hearts for helping us provide this type of environment for children who had lost it all. I know how much our house parents love the children under their care, but without your support they could not do much, so today in behalf of all our committed house parents, we would like to say a big thank you to all our supporters. Your support of this cause makes a big difference.

May the Lord bless you.

Joel Reyes

Director of Public Relations