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# QUE PASA

WHAT'S HAPPENING

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## FAITH AND LOVE *In Action*



*Puedo confiar en el Señor,  
Él me va a ayudar  
Puedo confiar en el Señor,  
no me va a fallar.*

Like the rest of the children at the ICC El Oasis Children's Village, Ines has experienced indescribable pain and sorrow in her life. She saw how her family disintegrated and her siblings taken away never to be seen again. As she sings the words of the song in Spanish, she smiles and carefully enunciates the lines in the second verse, "Si el sol llegara a oscurecer y a

*no brilla más, igual confío en el Señor, no me va a fallar.*" (If the sun grows dark and shines no more, I will trust in the Lord just the same, for He will not fail me.) Her sweet voice blends with that of the other children, mindful of what has just happened in her life.

A few years after arriving at her new home at the children's village, the caregivers noticed a small curvature in her spine. She had always been a very happy and active child and the condition didn't seem to impair her. However, she was taken to a local doctor who diagnosed her condition as scoliosis. The caregivers continued to stay in touch with the doctor as they monitored her development. The deformity progressed very rapidly and after several more visits to the doctor, he concluded that unless surgery was performed the deformity would eventually cripple the child.

The children's village administrator, along with the doctor, began to look for providers who would be willing and capable of performing the surgery. They also reported the case to the country's

Children's Services Department who got involved in trying to find a solution as well. Their search took them in different directions but it was very difficult to find providers capable of handling the type of surgery she needed. They began to make plans to take her to Mexico City where they would find a larger pool of specialists and better facilities. Mexico is a very large country and this would mean a long cross-country trip. The children prayed for and tried to encourage Ines.

As this was happening, a group of sponsors from Southern California were visiting the children's village. Among them were Malcolm Smith and his wife Joyce. The Smiths are a very special couple to the children of El Oasis. For years they have been involved in helping the children there in many different capacities. Their love for the children is evident and when they learned of Ines' condition, their hearts ached because they loved her. Upon returning to their home in the Loma Linda

—Continued on back page—

# A Personal Note

Dear ICC Family,

When you invest in the life of an ICC child through our sponsorship program, you help make it possible for that child to receive a quality education. It may not be in a fancy school with all the latest technological innovations and trendy curriculum approaches, but it will provide the child with the skills and training he or she needs to be a productive, contributing member of society. At ICC, we also believe that true education is holistic – focusing on the mind, the body and the spirit. Most important, ICC schools are Christ-centered, and children learn about their Creator and Redeemer. In the course of their educational experience, many ICC children give their hearts to Jesus. Yes, your investment in ICC children does pay a good return of interest. And it is the best kind of interest – lives saved for God’s kingdom.

The end of a calendar year also brings the end of a school year in many of ICC’s children’s villages. This is the situation in the country of India at the DEWS Sweet Home village. Lilly Kaligithi, the director, recently sent this message:

*Dear Friends:*

*My heart is bubbling with joy as I write this letter to you. Nine of our children are graduating this weekend... Say a prayer for them. I am ever grateful to God for His wonderful leading.*

*Every one of you have a part in bringing up these children. Thank you.*

*May the Lord bless and prosper you.*

*With Best wishes,*

*Lilly*

The Los Pinos Children’s Village in Guatemala is another ICC project where graduations occur near the end of the year. Our children in Guatemala attend the ICAP secondary school which is also operated by ICC. This school has had great success in preparing young people to lead productive lives. This year there were 114 graduates. Yet perhaps an even more impressive number is the 126 students who were baptized during the school year. This is a wonderful return on the investment donors and supporters have given this school through the years.

Ten of the graduates from ICAP were ICC children. One of those was Glendy, who was featured in the December Que Pasa. Five of her biological siblings were there to celebrate with her. One of Glendy’s classmates, Vilma, also graduated with a teaching certificate. Vilma came to ICC in 1992 when she was one-year old, and her parents had separated. Initially, Vilma and her two sisters stayed with their father, but he was planning to give the sisters up for adoption. However, Vilma’s aunt decided to take all three girls to Los Pinos where they grew up together.

Vilma attended the elementary school at the Los Pinos campus and completed the program requirements to become



[Sweet Home graduates](#)



[Los Pinos graduates](#)

a teacher. Her sisters are now married, and she plans to live with one of them, get a job, save some money and continue studying at the university. She had this to share with our ICC family:

*“Thank-you very much to all my supporters, because with your help I could continue, graduate and now I may help my sisters. Thank you because with the foundation that I have now, I will be able to deal with any other areas in my life. Your help is very special. Thanks to this, the results can be seen as I graduate. I am encouraged to support the children who come behind me... With the help of God they will be victorious. Thanks for your support, for your love and for your prayers.”*



*Vilma at graduation*

Glendy, Vilma, the eight other graduates from Los Pinos and the nine graduates from India that Lilly mentioned are a sample of the ICC children who are successfully completing their education and moving on to lives of independence. Was the investment worthwhile? Just ask them, and I'm sure they'd say it was.

Another year is beginning. And while we celebrate the accomplishments of the recent graduates, there is much work ahead as a new year starts. At this time ICC needs further “investments” as other children take the places of these recent graduates. You may have experienced in your family (or still experience) extra costs associated with the start of a new school term. Project education budget requests are arriving at our office, and it's a daunting task trying to provide for, not just a few children, but hundreds of them. Education related costs account for a large part of the operational budgets at many of ICC's children's villages. These include such things as teacher's salaries, uniforms, books, teaching aids, supplies and tuition fees for students who attend schools off-campus. The needs are great, and we invite you to make an investment in “His Kids” today. Feel free to designate your gift for something specific that is listed above.

In closing, like Vilma, I also want to thank-you for your support, for your love and for your prayers.

In His Service,

Kent Greve



# Faith and Love - Continued

area they told friends and acquaintances about their little friend in Mexico and her need for help. They also contacted the Loma Linda University Medical Center, and shared with them Ines' situation. After analyzing her case, the Loma Linda University Medical Center International Benefit Committee approved the request to perform the surgery that she needed. Ines could not contain her joy when she was told about it. However, there were still hurdles to overcome. Before traveling to Loma Linda, she would need a passport and a visa to enter the United States. Being a dependent minor she would need special dispensation from the Mexican authorities to travel abroad. This and all other obstacles were put before the Lord as the process continued.

In October of 2012, Ines was finally able to travel to Loma Linda to have her surgery. The surgical team, headed by one of Loma Linda's best orthopedic surgeons, Dr. Scott Nelson, met to evaluate her case and develop a plan. She distinctly remembers



their kindness and compassion as they talked with her. One of Dr. Nelson's specialties is pediatric orthopedics, and his caring words and gentle demeanor had a tremendous impact on the life of this little girl. She remembers his smile as he came into her room, and his reassuring words, "Everything will be ok." Dr. Nelson told her about other children with similar conditions whom he had helped. "He held my hand," she says quietly as she holds her own hand,

"and gave me a hug, and then he prayed for me. After he prayed, I knew everything would be ok, because Jesus would be there too, helping him."

Due to the extent of the damage, Dr. Nelson scheduled the surgery in two segments. Altogether, the two surgeries took over 12 hours. Reflecting

on the experience, Dr. Nelson expressed that this had been the second most difficult surgery in his extensive career as an orthopedic surgeon. "Considering the seriousness of her situation, it is an incomparable blessing for me as a surgeon, and for the team, to see her walk out of the hospital, standing tall and looking happy," he said. But Dr. Nelson may not fully realize the extent of the transformation he generated in the life of this child. Ines is no longer the sick little girl looking into the distance wishing that things were different, praying and hoping – not praying for toys or a beautiful dress, just praying for a normal body. *If the sun grows dark and shines no more, I will trust in the Lord just the same, for He will not fail me.* If you visit with Ines today, she will tell you about her new friend in Loma Linda; the kind doctor who held her hand and prayed for her. She will tell you about his cheering smile and his comforting voice. She will take you to a spot on the wall and point to a scratch in it to show you how tall she used to be before her surgery, then she will stand tall so you can see how much taller she is now, "three more inches!" she will proudly tell you with a big smile.

I can see her putting her hand on your shoulder as she says, "Puedes confiar en el Señor hermano." (Brother, you can trust in the Lord.) Oh the faith of a transformed child and the heart of a compassionate doctor!

Yes, you can trust in the Lord!

