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# QUE PASA

WHAT'S HAPPENING

A Publication of International Children's Care  
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**E**ach one of us celebrates the New Year in differing ways. Some make resolutions, and some are just grateful to have made it through another year. The children of ICC always look forward to the New Year that lies ahead of them now that they have a home to call their own. Those home are provided for them by you, our ICC Family. We wanted to share with you the following information so that you will know just how many children are in each children's village today, now with a hope for tomorrow due to your kind generosity to them.

### **Patmos Island Children's Village** *Democratic Republic of Congo:*

We currently have 156 children living in our Patmos Island Children's Village residing in 9 homes that have been completed. We were blessed to have added 14 new children into this village over the past year. These were children

who would have perished without the help of our ICC Family. Praise God for His leading in providing these lives with the opportunity to know Him!

### **Las Palmas Children's Village** *(The Palms)*

#### *Dominican Republic:*

There are 68 children living in 6 homes in our Dominican Family on this island. We have also been able to add new children to this village and these new children are thriving in the love and hope that our ICC Village provides them.

### **Hogar de Nino's El Paraiso Children's Village** *(Paradise Homes for Children)*

#### *El Salvador:*

68 children currently reside in 5 different homes in our El Salvador Children's Village. Our house parents were blessed to be able to attend training seminars in parenting for the orphaned children they create families for. This has been such a blessing to all on the campus.

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# A Personal Note

It was early morning when I awoke and heard the children playing. Where am I, and what is that sound? Certainly it's far too early for the children to be already on the playground.

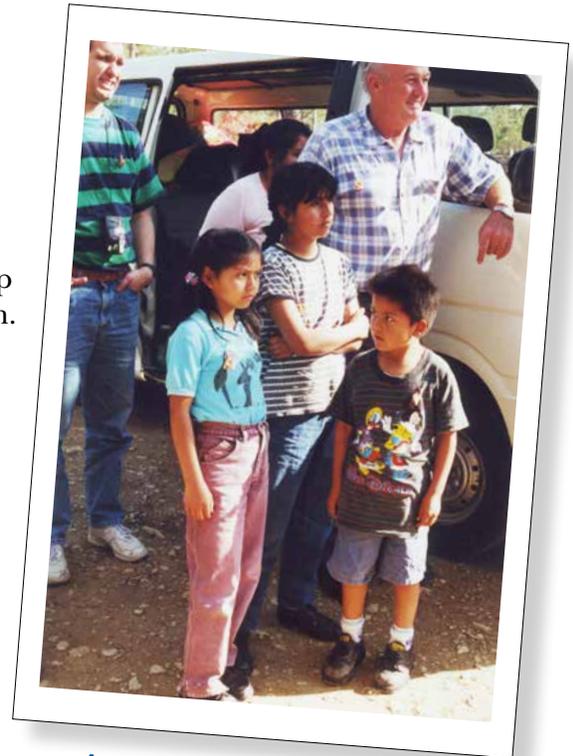
It was 13 years ago, January 2001, and I had recently arrived at ICC's receiving center in Guatemala City. This was my initial visit, and there was much for me to experience and much to learn about ICC's flagship project – the children's early morning wake-up time being one of them. I tried to regain a comfortable position for more sleep, but with the happy prattle of the children's voices outside, there was no use trying much longer. This would be a long day. We would be driving eight or more hours from the capital city to ICC's Los Pinos Children's Village near Poptun.

Later that morning our group gathered by the Toyota Hiace van preparing to leave. We were introduced to three children who would be our traveling companions that day. These were the Herrera children: Ana, Silvia, and Luis. They had recently come to the receiving center and were now being transferred to their new home at the children's village. Nothing was known about their father. They had lived with their mother until 1999 when she died of cancer. These three children and their older sister stayed together for a time living in a house next to a kind lady from Switzerland. This neighbor helped where she could, but the children made their own food, washed their clothes, cleaned the house and went to school. In time the older sister was able to enroll at ICC's secondary school (ICAP), and this left the three younger siblings on their own. They were eventually brought to the ICC receiving center, and on this day they were to be placed within the loving care of an ICC family.

For those of you who have had the experience of taking the trip from Guatemala City to Poptun you know that the journey can be long and tiring as it was that particular day. Yet throughout the trip, the children remained calm and quiet and hardly made a sound. What were the thoughts they must have shared only among themselves? What will this new place be like? Will we be accepted by the other children? Will we have a real mommy and daddy to love us?



Luis, Ana, and Silvia adjusting well to their new home



Ana, Silvia, and Luis before the trip. Kent is in the background to the left.

Upon arriving at the campus, our van-load of bone-weary travelers received a warm Guatemala greeting complete with fireworks. The siblings stuck close together as they watched the festivities. When the smoke and dust cleared, we were all settled into our respective quarters and the siblings were made to feel welcome in their new home.

I would see the children on occasion during the remaining few days of my visit. When I left to return home, I sensed that they were adjusting well. I was confident this would be a wonderful place for them.

# Living by the Word

*Do not withhold good from those who deserve it, when it is in your power to act. Prov 3:27 (NIV)*

As the years passed I didn't have much opportunity to keep up with the progress of these siblings. However, on my last trip to Guatemala in the spring of 2012 I was pleasantly surprised to find out that Ana and Silvia were again living at the receiving center in Guatemala City. They had finished the school program at ICAP and were now pursuing nursing degrees at a university in Guatemala City. It was hard to believe that these were the same girls who took that long trip to Poptun with me many years before. It seemed they had grown up so quickly, and now they had come full circle, back to where their time with ICC had started.

We spoke briefly. They remembered me and the trip to Poptun. This was an exciting reunion for me. Even now it solidifies in my mind the significant difference ICC makes in the lives of orphaned children. From living on their own and fending for themselves, to being taken in and loved, and nurtured and now being educated to become truly self-sufficient. This is the mission of ICC exemplified!

This past November, Ana and Silvia received their technical nursing degrees. There to join in the celebration of this achievement were Luis and their older sister both of whom are employed and living productive lives. In fact, Luis is working at the Adventist Book Center in Guatemala City. Rick and Sharon were also there to enjoy this special occasion.

Ana and Silvia plan to continue their studies in nursing. They are both very grateful for the wonderful opportunities given them by ICC and those faithful donors who have supported them through the years.

New children continue to join the ICC family just like the Herrera siblings did many years ago. Their little broken lives also need to be gently pieced together through the passage of time and by the nurturing care that a loving ICC family provides. They also need your continued support now and into the future, for this is not a ministry of quick fixes or short-term remedies. Our programs for orphaned, abandoned and destitute children take time and sustained funding in order to be successful.



Ana, Luis, Silvia, and their older sister at graduation

ICC doesn't depend upon government assistance or corporate support to continue caring for the children, and of course, they don't have financial resources of their own. ICC's capacity to care for the children is made possible by generous and caring individuals who have often given sacrificially for many years. And in case you wonder if all that time and money is worth it, just remember Ana, Silvia and Luis. They'll tell you it is worth it and will thank-you for it.

In His Service,

Kent Greve

International Development Director

***P.S. Many ICC children need a sponsor. If you're not already connected to an ICC child through sponsorship please consider signing up today. Call 800-422-7729 for more details. Thank-you!***



### **Los Pinos Children's Village** *(The Pines)*

#### *Guatemala:*

We are blessed to have 77 thriving young people living on this campus. We have been able to add 14 new children to The Los Pinos Village this past year, and what a blessing they have been! These children are so excited to be a part of our ICC Family!

### **Dews Sweet Home Children's Village**

#### *India:*

We Have 79 children living in 5 homes on our campus in India. Most of our children are older young people on this campus and are finding paths to their own lives down the road. They are taking classes in numerous areas and vocations for their future. One of those areas is nursing, and one of our young men just graduated this past year with his nursing degree, and he received a scholarship from an individual to attend medical school in The Philippines. What a blessing!

### **El Oasis Children's Village** *(The Oasis)*

#### *Mexico:*

El Oasis has 37 children living in 4 different homes on the campus. One of our young girls was

blessed this year to have Loma Linda Medical Center donate all medical costs to her in order to have a curvature of her spine corrected. She has grown 2 inches in height due to this surgery! One of our donors also provided all of the extra costs that were experienced with this situation. We are so grateful to Loma Linda and this special donor for truly changing the life of this little girl!

### **Fuente de Vida Children's Village** *(Fount of Life)*

#### *Nicaragua:*

Our newest campus has 17 children living in 2 different homes now in Nicaragua. This campus is still under construction and our administrator there has been busy establishing industries that are contributing to the monthly budget there. As of today, these industries are contributing 15-20% of their own monthly budget. Praise God for this blessing!

### **Luire si Camin Pentru Copii Children's Village** *(Love and Home for Children)*

#### *Romania:*

We are blessed to have 26 children currently living in this project with 3 homes completed. The abandonment of babies continues to be a difficult one in

Romania, and our project here has been truly blessed by receiving numerous children from this tragic situation. These children are now growing up to be wonderful young people. We have been establishing a bakery on this campus with tremendous help from our European ICC Family. We are so grateful to them for taking this children's village under their wing and working to help it become what God wants it to be!

### **Columbia:**

We have 15 children in our care in Columbia living in various homes where they are loved and taken care of as family by numerous amazing Christian families.

### **Zambia:**

We have 3 children in one home with one set of house parents who serve as the mom and dad to our children there. Our ICC Family is assisting this family of children in order for them to be able to become independent in life. Our youngest of the children living here is in the last or their secondary education.

The ICC Children's Villages in the Asia/Pacific region are supervised by the ICC Australia Office. News updates for these projects can be found at – [www.iccaustralia.org.au/media/news](http://www.iccaustralia.org.au/media/news)

God bless each one of you as you continue to provide hope for the futures of hundreds of orphaned and/or abandoned children who need that support so desperately. The children are and forever will be grateful to all of you for what you do for them on a daily basis as they look forward in hope to this New Year!