



February 2014

QUIE PASA

WHAT'S HAPPENING

A Publication of International Children's Care
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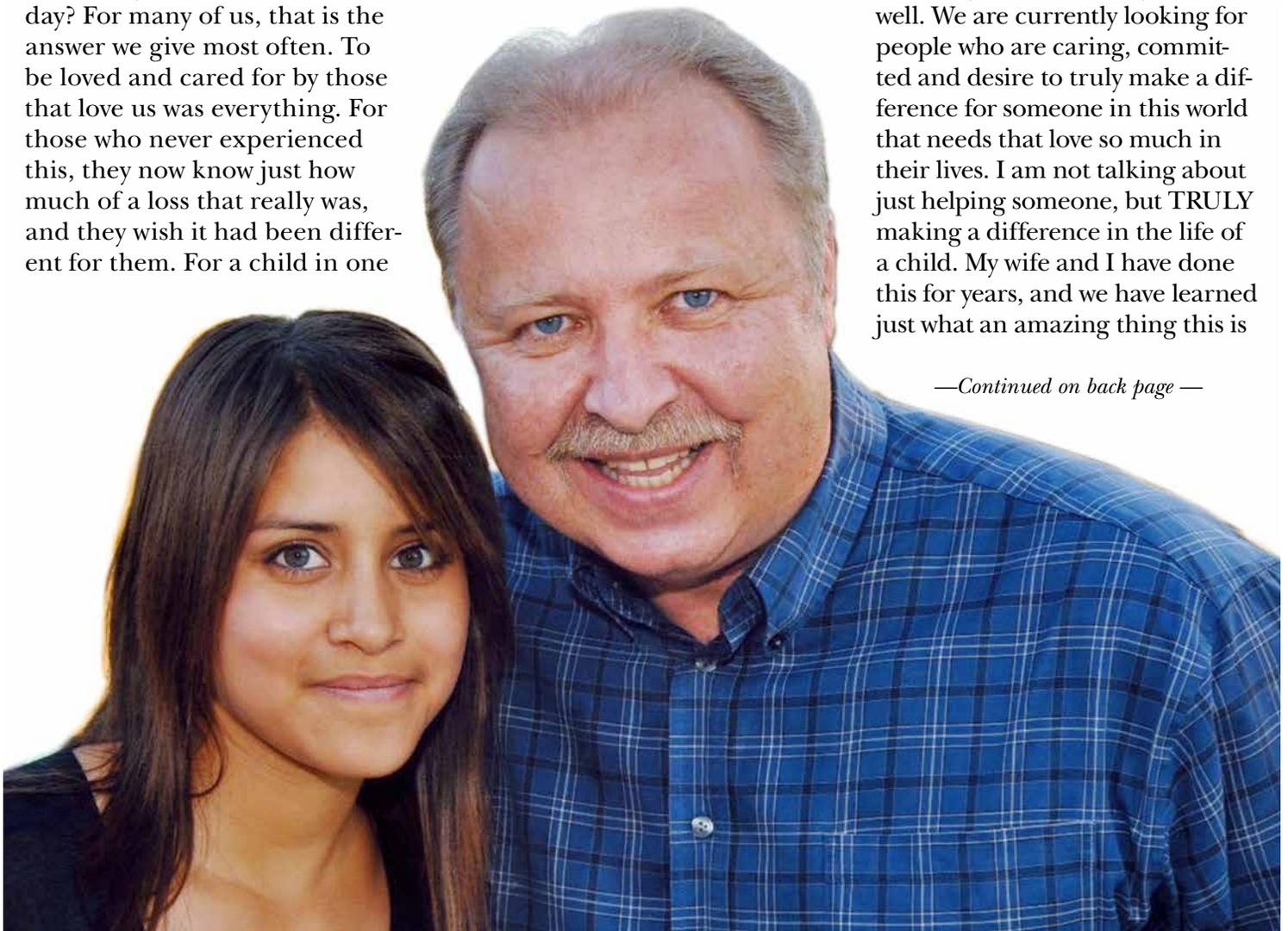
IF NOT YOU, THEN WHO?

When you think back on your childhood, think about what the most important blessings were to you growing up. Was it your mom and dad, or those that loved you enough to care for you each day? For many of us, that is the answer we give most often. To be loved and cared for by those that love us was everything. For those who never experienced this, they now know just how much of a loss that really was, and they wish it had been different for them. For a child in one

of the children's villages to not have someone to sponsor them is the same difficult and lonely situation to be in. Every child needs to feel that they are loved by someone special.

We are searching for people who will care enough to be those blessings to children through sponsoring them. In truth, by sharing with a child in need through sponsorship, you end up on the receiving end of blessings as well. We are currently looking for people who are caring, committed and desire to truly make a difference for someone in this world that needs that love so much in their lives. I am not talking about just helping someone, but TRULY making a difference in the life of a child. My wife and I have done this for years, and we have learned just what an amazing thing this is

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A Personal Note

“Mommy, Please Don’t Cry!”

All the children who come to ICC supported children’s villages have experienced devastating losses. Some of them have managed to survive alone in the streets, suffering abuse, starvation, and cold before coming to the children’s village. Many of them have never met their parents, or known a family until they came to us. But there are also cases where children lived in nurturing and loving families until the day they came to us. Just a few weeks ago Los Pinos experienced a situation such as this in Guatemala.

Imagine a mother trying to raise six children, including six-year-old twins, after losing her husband. That was the case with this family. Not having much of an education she resorted to domestic work to provide food for her kids. She would clean houses and do laundry. But six children are a lot of mouths to feed, and there was never enough food. At that time a group of missionaries opened a school and a shelter for needy children in Northeastern Guatemala where the family lived. After becoming aware of the family’s need, they offered to take the children into the shelter and to give them an education as well. The mother would come and visit them as often as she could. Unfortunately, as sometimes happens with self-sustaining ministries, funds were not sufficient to maintain the project and the school and shelter had to close after only a few years, leaving the children homeless again.

One of the teachers who had served the children at the school took a special interest in them. But with a family of his own, he couldn’t do very much for them either. Somewhere he had heard about the Los Pinos children’s village run by ICC and recommended to the mother that she look for help there. Since the mother had no money, he offered to pay for the family to travel from Northeastern Guatemala all the way to Petén where Los Pinos is located. He also coached her on what buses to take and how to get to Los Pinos. With a heavy heart, mother and children began to pack what little they had for the two day trip through the mountains. There was no excitement or laughter. In fact, there had not been any excitement or laughter in this family since the day the missionaries closed the shelter.

Following the teacher’s directions, the family eventually arrived at the Los Pinos children’s village where they were interviewed and evaluated by the team there. It was evident that this mother loved her children. There were signs of malnutrition, but there was no evidence of abuse of any sort. The mother told the social worker how hard she had worked to keep the family together and how much she had prayed that this day would never come. She wept.

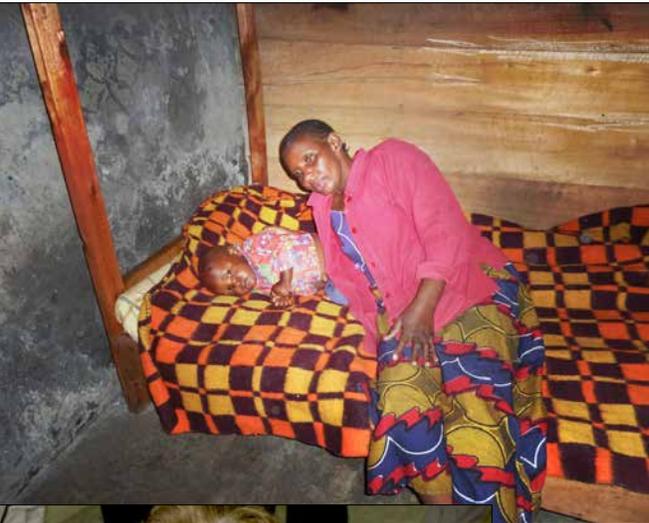
After hugging her kids one last time she said goodbye, and turned around. The children stood there as she walked out the main gate. Not wanting her children to see



Living by the Word

*Honor the Lord with your wealth, with the firstfruits of all your crops; then your barns will be filled to overflowing, and your vats will brim over with new wine. **Prov 3:9-10 (NIV)***

the tears that by now swamped her face, she never looked back. The trip home was extremely torturous, and she kept telling herself that she had done the right thing. She had seen the campus of the children's village. She had seen the school and the beautiful gardens that surrounded every home. She kept praying, "Lord keep my children safe and give me the assurance that I have done the right thing."



Life didn't get any better. She lost her cleaning job and was now having difficulty even feeding herself, but the worst part was the loneliness. One day she managed to call the children's village. She spoke to some of the staff members. She wanted to know about the children. She cried a bit as they told her how well the children were adapting and how they loved school. Then she asked if they would be so kind as to let her talk to them. The children were brought to the office so they could talk to their mother, but soon, the caregivers began to wonder whether they had done the right thing. They could hear the mother sobbing on the phone and then the children began to cry as well. They all took turns talking to their mother and crying with her. First came the older one followed by the younger siblings until it was the twins' turn. They went to the phone

and began talking to their mother. One of them began to cry a bit while his brother pressed closer to listen. After listening for a few minutes he said to his mother in a calm and reassuring voice, "Mommy, please don't cry, we all like it here . . . we have a home now and we don't go hungry. We go to church too, and Mommy, Jesus loves you." The sobbing at the other end of the line subsided. Finally a calm voice was heard, "And I love you too baby."

What a statement! Amidst this family tragedy, this six year-old boy felt the assurance that all was well. He had a home, he wasn't hungry, he knew his mother loved him with all her heart, and most importantly, he knew that Jesus loved him and he wanted to share that assurance with his mother. All of our kids have a different story that brought them to us, but the "secret ingredient" that brings healing to all of them is the love of Jesus in their life.

We thank all of you in this New Year for making this work possible. May God bless you and all "His Kids!"

Joel Reyes
Director of Public Relations

If not you - Continued

in the life of the child in need, but it also has done amazing things in our own lives as well.

We are looking for difference makers who will be that vital contact to a child that needs to feel this special kind of love. Are you looking for some way to truly make a difference in this world through changing the life of a child possibly? If you are, then you have found the children here at ICC where you can make that desire become a reality. Please, if you have ever considered truly reaching out to someone who needs it so much, to change their very lives, contact our office right away and ask Alanna how you can start an amazing relationship that will always be remembered as that special blessing that a child received.

God bless you for considering this request,



Doug Congleton
ICC Executive Director

Potato Harvest in Romania

Potatoes are a staple food for our ICC children in Romania. Potatoes are prepared in different ways and the children love them. For a few years now, our ICC partner in The Netherlands has found a company to help supply seed potatoes for our project. These are shipped to Romania along with other needed items for our children and the wider community.

This past year, 1,200 kg (2,645 lbs.) of seed potatoes were included in the transport. These were planted in the ICC Romania garden and nurtured through the growing season. When the

staff and children harvested the potatoes, the yield was 6,000 kg (over 13,000 lbs). This quantity is enough to feed the children until the next harvest.

What a blessing this arrangement is for our children and staff. They received a donation that quite literally grew bigger as they nurtured and cared for it. This is symbolic of the children themselves. Many of them come to us as small children. Yet, with nurturing love and care, they also grow and develop and mature into talented and energetic young people with the capacity to make a difference in the world.



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(800) 422-7729
Joel@ForHisKids.org

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\$30 \$60 \$ _____

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Sponsorship Department

