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QUIE PASA

WHAT'S HAPPENING

A Publication of International Children's Care
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An ICC HERO passes away

Dear ICC Family,

On February 20, 2014, my long-time friend, Alice Schultz, passed to her rest after medical complications resulting from a fall. I want you to know what a hero Alice was from my perspective.

I first knew Alice when we were very young and in Laurelwood Academy in about 1935. Since that time I have been privileged to consider her as one of my very best friends. But she was a friend to many, and when she learned about International Children's Care, she became involved almost from the very beginning.

She loved ICC – her favorite charity – and she participated in it in an especially personal way. As a sponsor, she supported and followed the lives of the various children she sponsored over the years. As a supporter, she was always quick to respond to the needs that I wrote about every month. As an ICC Board member, she attended nearly every meeting, and gave us welcome and sage advice. She participated in helping us send much-needed clothing and supplies to ICC projects.

Just recently, as we were preparing for a container of supplies to go to our Patmos Children's Village in Congo, she contacted Sharon and asked if she could help supply clothing for the children. Gratefully, Sharon met her at the store where she sat and supervised while Sharon and Vicki (from our office) worked

with Alice's daughter Kathy to pick out complete outfits for each of the 150 children. "Are you sure that blouse is going to match that skirt?" she would say, or, "Do we have enough pants? Make sure we get enough for all the children!"

Yes, she truly cared for children. And her caring was infectious as she shared her passion with her children and grandchildren. Many of them joined together with her to support a specific need when she would "Put the pressure on" – but it was kind and gentle pressure!

As she got older and had more difficulty hearing everything in our board meetings, she suggested that her grandson, Cody Erwin, be part of the ICC Board. Not only is he a member of the board, but he serves an active role on our Executive Board, and he continues to join with his family in loving and generous support of the ministry that Alice loved so much.

She wanted to see the children up close and personal, so she



—Continued on back page—

A Personal Note

Several years ago, my Sabbath School class reached out to sponsor one of ICC's children. Huridis was an older boy when he came to the Las Palmas children's village in the Dominican Republic, and our hearts were drawn to him and his story. As time passed we were thrilled to receive his progress reports and pictures which we prominently displayed in our classroom. Huridis recently graduated from university and is on his own now. I'm happy to be able to share an excerpt from his personal story.

Ever since I can remember, my parents lived apart. I lived most of my childhood with my mother until she became pregnant by another man. I was seven years old at the time. When my little sister was born my mother's new partner did not want to help us, choosing instead to abandon us. My mother took me to live with my paternal grandparents who received me with open arms and welcomed me as a son. My grandmother was a Christian and would take me to church with her, however I missed my mother and started to misbehave. I just wanted to go back home to my mother.

When I was eight years old, I went to live with an aunt for a short period of time, but due to my bad behavior I was not allowed to go to school. This aunt was extremely poor and could not do much for me, so after about three months I went to live with another aunt, my father's sister. With her I lived most of my early adolescence. I love her like a mother. Due to my grandmother's Christian influence when I was very small, I decided to give my life to Jesus at the age of nine.

After living with my aunt for several years, the family faced a terrible crisis that ended with the break-up of the marriage. My aunt was left to raise the family all by herself. She had four children of her own plus me. There were five mouths to provide for all by herself. My aunt was not a woman of means and in her condition was not able to provide food for all of us or send us to school.

It was around this time, in the midst of all these difficulties, and after giving my life to the Lord, and no longer being a trouble making boy, that a church member had an idea that would change my life forever. Sister Francisca, who many years before had served as a house mother at the Las Palmas Children's Village, thought that perhaps the orphanage there would be able to help me. She shared her idea with Blas Diaz who had also served there in years past as a house father. Brother Diaz took a very special interest in me and became the principal channel through which the Lord brought me to the children's village. He made all the proper arrangements so that I could join the family. He began working on his plan in August of 2004, and against all odds, several months later I was finally admitted into the ICC family at Hogar Campestre Las Palmas.

It wasn't easy to be admitted into the children's village. I faced several challenges.

1. I was too old to be admitted into the program. I was 13 at the time, and the maximum age for children to enter the program was nine.



Doing house chores

Living by the Word

“As you go, proclaim this message: ‘The kingdom of heaven has come near’. Freely you have received; freely give.” Matthew 10:7,8 (NIV)

2. I was not a true orphan since my parents were alive somewhere.
3. My biological mother needed to sign documents granting legal custody of me to the children’s village, but they couldn’t find her. But I wasn’t left alone. ICC worked very hard getting all the necessary paperwork.

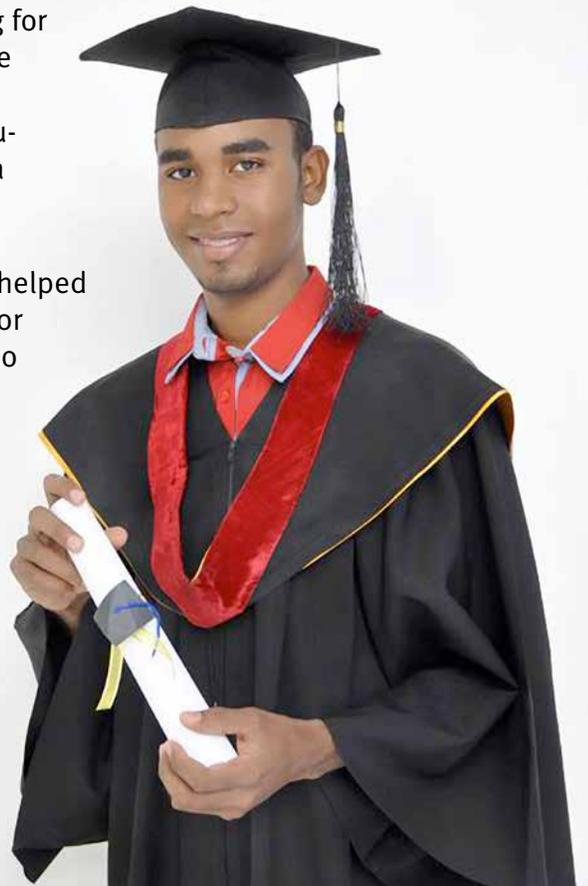
After joining the Las Palmas family, I went to school and my grades began to improve. My spiritual life also took a turn for the better. I had seen how God had opened doors that nobody could have opened otherwise. I saw my dreams becoming a reality, and at 13 I realized that God had separated me from my parents and my family for a special purpose, and the purpose was that I would serve Him for the rest of my life.

I began studying music at age 14, playing the cello, and developed a love for it. At 15, along with another friend, I led a week of prayer at the children’s village church, and it was then that my friends began to call me “pastor.” I was a good student during my high school years and earned good grades. I also began to serve the church as youth leader.

I wasn’t too sure about the career I wanted to pursue after high school. First I considered architecture, but that would have meant going away from home and I didn’t like that, so I thought about taking nursing, but I have never liked working around blood. Finally, I realized that the Lord was calling me for something much bigger in life. I decided to take theology and become a pastor.

I know that God was there with me, protecting me and providing for all my needs during those four years in college. It is He who gave me the dedication and study habits to acquire all the academic knowledge needed for this profession. I am happy to have graduated from the Dominican Adventist Theological University with a bachelor’s degree in Theology and Pastoral Ministry.

I am very grateful to all those who in one way or another have helped me climb a few more steps on the ladder of life. I am grateful for International Children’s Care. God indeed used them to bring so many blessings into my life. I am grateful for all the sponsors who faithfully supported all of us and encouraged us to reach our goals. We would have never made it on our own. Above all, I am thankful to God for choosing me, and for giving me a purpose. My goal in life now is to live for others, and to help those with the same needs I once had. I want to give them the opportunity to better themselves in life. The Bible says, “As you go, proclaim this message: ‘The kingdom of heaven has come near’... Freely you have received; freely give.” Matthew 10:7. That’s what I want to do for the rest of my life, to freely give to all those in need, the same way I received in abundance.



ICC Hero passes

- Continued from page one

traveled with me on several occasions, visiting Costa Rica, Honduras, Guatemala and the Dominican Republic. What a thrill she felt as she met with the children she was sponsoring! She loved the idea that ICC not only Rescues the children, but we implement ways to Restore them to wholeness as well.

Yes, I see her as a hero, one who we can all look up to and admire – one who will certainly enjoy so much the wonderful reunion we all look forward to when we all meet together in the Kingdom of Heaven and present these rescued and restored lives to our Savior, Jesus Christ.

I want to be there with as many children as the Lord entrusts to us. Don't you?

With my love,



Alcyon Fleck
Founder of ICC

Matching Grant Fund Established

There is an incredible opportunity for you to have your gift matched dollar for dollar right now. Anonymous donors have created a matching grant fund to help provide much-needed funds for the ICC children. Right now every dollar you give to this fund will be matched by an equal amount to go directly to help orphaned and abandoned children. So if you give \$50, another \$50 will be donated into the fund, \$100 will result in another \$100 going to help children, in fact, any amount will be matched – up to \$200,000!

With the financial difficulties that our world has been experiencing, where else would you be able to find an opportunity that would not only provide hope for a future to orphaned and abandoned children who need it most, but that would also provide an instant 100% increase in the number of children's lives that you will touch?

Please act now while these matching funds are still available. There will be more information about this in our next Que Pasa.



A Personal Note - Continued from page three

How special is this testimony! Isn't it wonderful to see that Huridis plans to freely give as he has received? Those donors and sponsors who provided for his care can bask in the joy of knowing that their gifts of support will go on and on springing up as blessings in the lives of others as Huridis serves them.

This is an example of a vital part of ICC's mission. We speak of children being rescued. They spend years with ICC and are restored. But what greater reward can there be than seeing these young people dedicate themselves to rescue and restore the lives of others?

Thank you for all you continue to do to make these wonderful stories possible through your faithful and ongoing support. We join Huridis in exclaiming, "We would have never made it on our own."

In His Service,



Kent Geve

P.S.

If you've never experienced the joy of sponsoring a child and would like to join in the miracle of **Restoration**, please call Alanna today at 800-422-7729 (ICC-PRAY). The children THANK YOU! for your support.