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QUÉ PASA

What's Happening

A Publication of International Children's Care
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Carolina Graduates! Thanks To You!

Not too long ago Carolina was an orphaned girl with no prospects or hope for her future. But, thanks in part to your generous giving, she's graduated from high school!

Life has not always been easy for Carolina. Like many orphans she has challenges to overcome. When she arrived, she was a quiet girl and had difficulty adjusting. At times, she acted out in anger. But, you supported her during some of the rough, growing up years.

Carolina has tried hard to do her best in her studies and in her campus life. She is praised for being cheerful and responsible and for her desire to excel academically.

Summer jobs at the school are given to students who show a spirit of excellence and good behavior. Carolina has the privilege of working on the school campus this summer.

Your support of children like Carolina is making a big difference. Isn't it wonderful that she is trying to make the most of the opportunity to prepare herself for life? Carolina has indicated that she would love to be a nurse in an ICC project or any other



Carolina has graduated high school thanks to your continued support. What an amazing gift you have given her.

place she can be used. She wants to serve God and other people.

It is your gifts that make an education possible for Carolina. Your generosity also gives us the resources that will help us rescue more children like Carolina from the despair of being an orphan.

Because of you the children are cared for and loved. Most importantly, they will receive an education that will prepare them to lead a life that will fulfill the God-given potential instilled in each of them.

Thank you!

A Personal Note

Thanks for your “Big Heart”

Editor’s Note: Manuel Lopez is one of the children that you’ve supported through ICC. Manuel shared his story—with a great big Thank You to you—at the recent SDA General Conference Session in San Antonio. The first part of his story is hard to read, but you’ll love seeing how much you helped him!

The Dark, Early Years

I was born in Peten, Guatemala. My Father was in the military. One day we were told that he was killed. About a year after that, my mother was kidnapped – I watched it happen. I remember we were alone in our house for three days.

Some people from the army came and took us to a military base. But only three of us younger kids in our family went to the Los Pinos children’s village. For 16 years we were separated from our other siblings.

We didn’t find each other until I graduated as a pastor. Then I found out that I had three more brothers! So we were a total of 8. I shared my story with them, and actually, the story of my life was the best story of all my siblings. None of them had gone to college.

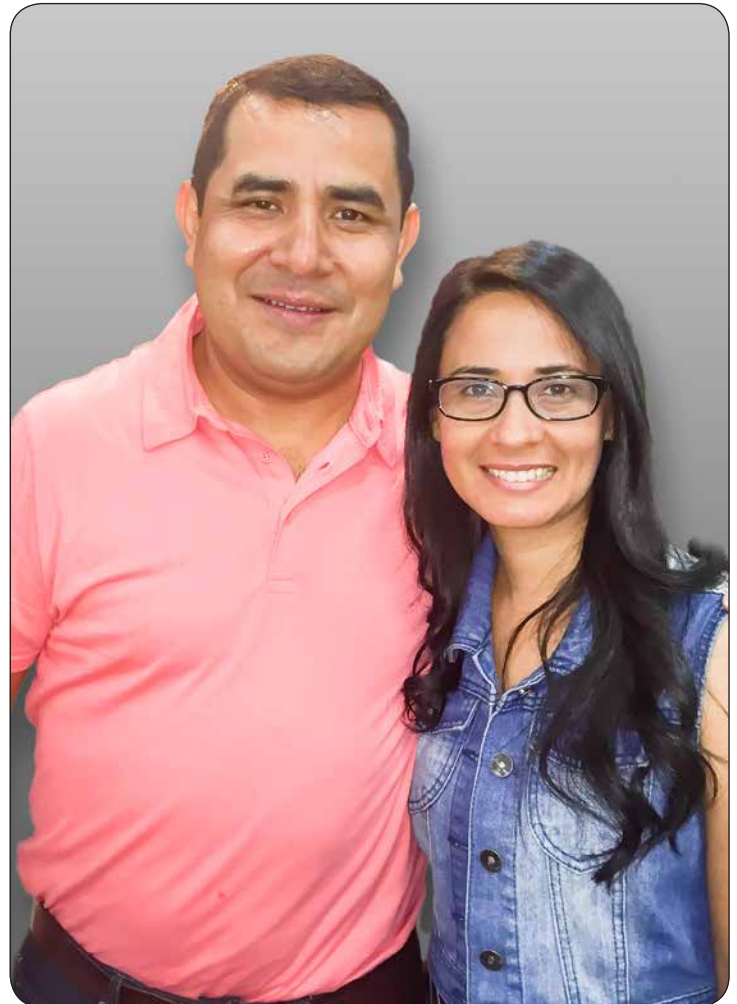
A Home in the Children’s Village— Thanks to You

When I was 7 years old I arrived at the Los Pinos children’s village. I went to elementary and secondary school there. My life was very different at Los Pinos since we had worships every day. I was taught how to pray and how to read the Bible. I had never done that before.

We had better facilities at Los Pinos—places where we could go and play. Everything was nearby. The school was close. Our interaction with the other children was good, and pretty soon we had a lot of friends.

Sometimes I think I would love to send my children there so they could have the opportunity to have that kind of lifestyle. It’s a good one. There is a lot of work, and they teach you how to work. You eat well. The people that surround the children are good Christian people. Once in a while I wish I was a child again so I could be there.

Now that I am older I can see that without ICC my life would be totally different. If I had not gone to Los Pinos I think I would probably be in my own town, maybe working in the fields, maybe working with cattle, maybe being a drunk.



Manuel and his wife Lorena.

Living by the Word

Religion that is pure and undefiled before God, the Father, is this: to visit orphans and widows in their affliction, and to keep oneself unstained from the world. James 1:27

There are many of those types of people in my little town.

I have kids of my own now, and I tell them that my favorite place in the world is Los Pinos. I learned so many things there. Sometimes I am able to speak to some friends who grew up with me there. We know that nobody can take away from us all that we learned there. I'm very thankful for the people that were there at that time who taught us all those things.

Preparing for a Career and Starting a Family

When I was a kid I remember pastor Ixcot. He would take some of us kids to different towns and do evangelistic work. I was always impressed with how people would respect him would treat him very well. I wanted to be respected and loved as he was. That was when I was a kid. But later I realized if I wanted to be saved I had to be close to Jesus. I couldn't find a better option to be closer to Jesus than working in the ministry. It would require reading the Bible every day because I needed to be able to bring to other people the love of Jesus. I needed to be prepared to answer any question and be the first one to do what Jesus wanted us to do.

For me education is the tool that will help me to be successful in life. Unfortunately, if you don't have a proper education it's really hard to do something good. I also tell my kids that when you get a good education you are able to have relationships with other types of people. That is important for many reasons, but the main reason is because you can share with them the love of Jesus.

I have two master's degrees. One is in Pastoral Theology from the Inter-American Seminary of Theology. The other is in Financial Administration from Montemorelos University in Mexico. Thanks to my work, I've been able to travel around the world to several countries. All of this is only because of the education that I was able to have.

I met my wife, Lorena, when I went to Honduras to start working as a pastor in 1997. We started dating the same year and got married in 1998. In Latin countries you get married twice. Our civil marriage was at the end of 1998. A few months later in 1999 we got married in the church. I was working far away and we couldn't get together for the church wedding until then. I try to be a good husband. I definitely enjoy my marriage. It's been a blessing for me. We have a 15 year old daughter. Our son is 9.

Thank you!

I would like to thank the sponsors and people supporting this work. Now that I am older I can see that it is not easy to maintain or sustain children that you don't know. **It's very special to know that even when people don't know you they are sending gifts to support you to be somebody and to have something in this life.** So what sponsors and supporters are doing is very important.

The kids at ICC receive many chances to do better in life. So I really admire donors for their big heart and for being willing to sponsor and support children that they don't know in person. It's a worthy cause, and the fruits will come. **The donors that ICC finds must be some of the best donors in the world because they are very loving and very caring.**

Ed: Manuel's amazing story was possible because of amazing generosity of you and other donors. Thank you!

You can provide a “Back to School Blessing” Today

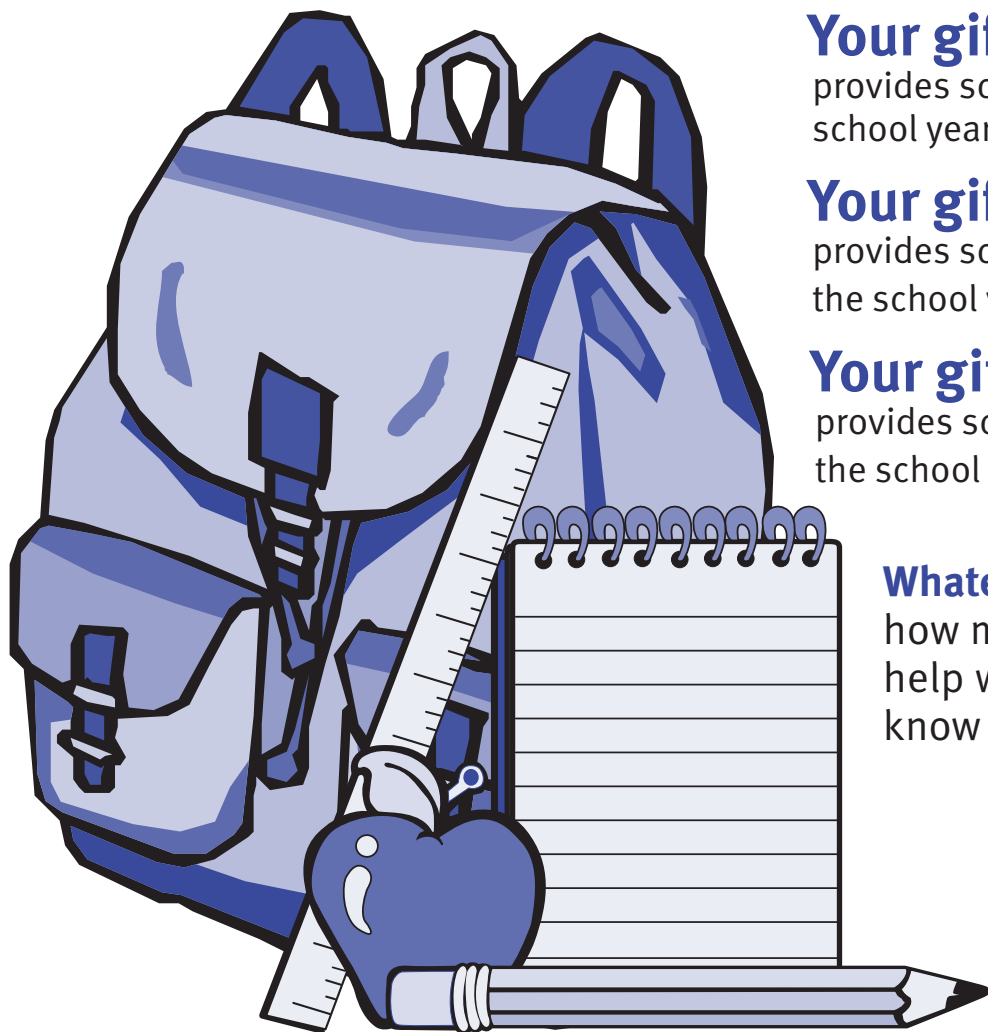
Each year there is a need for school supplies and consumable materials for the next generation of children like Manuel. This month, as many people focus their attention on “Back to School” events, you have an opportunity to come along side of an orphan child and provide a gift that will bless him or her.

Your support of education for orphan children is critical. Education is one of the foundational pillars on which the entire program of International Children’s Care is built. It has made a tremendous impact on the life of Manuel and continues to do so for children like Carolina.

Because of your generous support orphan children have been able to enter a classroom — some for the very first time! You filled the classroom with the essentials that every classroom needs; desks, books, teaching materials, and a large chalkboard. Best of all, you helped provide a smiling teacher who welcomes the children with a big hug.

Words can’t express the joy they feel as they settle in and experience the joy of learning! It happens slowly, but you can watch the cycle of poverty slow and then stop as the children grow. **It is your faithful support that makes this possible.**

☞ Here are some practical ways your gift will help ☜



Your gift of \$20

provides school supplies for **1** child for the school year.

Your gift of \$40

provides school supplies for **2** children for the school year.

Your gift of \$60

provides school supplies for **3** children for the school year.

Whatever gift you can provide, or how many children you choose to help with their education, please know that they appreciate you.

Thank you!