



QUÉ PASA

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What's Happening

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Well Worth Your Investment

You may never fully realize the impact your investment has in the life of an orphan child. Through your support and other faithful donors like you, children like Stela are given the opportunity to learn and grow and realize their God-given potential.

Stela is a young woman who was really struggling growing up without parents to guide her. When she was very young, she spent time with relatives until she was placed in the ICC children's village in Romania.

As Stela grew older, her biological mother tried to develop a relationship with her. Her mother didn't share the same values taught at the children's village. Stela was confused. As she grew to become a teenager she began to rebel and misbehave.

However, something happened in Stela's final year of elementary school that helped her to realize who it was that truly cared for her and who was looking out for her best interest.

In order to complete her final year Stela had to pass an exam. Unfortunately, she struggled with math, and to make matters worse,

her math teacher at the local school was not very professional or helpful.

The loving care givers at the children's village saw this struggle and realized that Stela needed help. They searched for a solution and eventually made contact with a retired teacher in a nearby village. He said he would be her tutor.

For the next five months Stela went to this retired teacher for 2½ hours every Sunday to study and prepare herself for the exam. In those five months the staff members saw a transformation as she not only improved in her math skills but also in her behavior.

Stela was pleased and grateful that her care givers had taken an interest in her in this way. What a blessing it was that the teacher didn't accept any payment for his time. He said that since she had to be driven 12 miles round trip each way it was enough. He didn't want to charge more.

When Stela took the final exam for elementary school she earned a high score in math. And when she applied to attend the Adventist High School in



Stela has succeeded because of your investment in her!

Bucharest she was accepted. This in itself is a big accomplishment as there are many more who apply than can be accepted.

No doubt, Stela will never forget the care and concern she received during this difficult time in her life. Thank-you so very much for your generous support through the years. It has helped to foster Stela's transformation. And for that, it was well worth your investment!

New Milestones for Silvia & Ana—Thanks to YOU!

Two years ago this month, the Que Pasa featured Silvia and Ana Herrera. Your ongoing support helped these talented sisters finish their technical nursing degree in Guatemala in 2013. At that time they wanted to continue their education in the nursing field. But as they looked into this, it became clear that to do so would mean they would face many conflicts with a schedule requiring them to be in class on Saturdays, their Sabbath. Rather than continuing down that path, the sisters chose to take Respiratory Therapy instead. They are very happy with what has transpired as they have been able to maintain their commitment to observing the Sabbath.

A few weeks ago Silvia and Ana graduated with degrees in Respiratory Therapy. They understand the wonderful opportunity they have been given to prepare themselves as professionals. Silvia expresses this in the translated letter that follows. As a member of the ICC family, you share in this accomplishment, and we wanted to share her heartfelt thanks with you.

Dear ICC,

Blessings in all your labors.

Today I am writing to you to thank you with all my heart for your willingness to help me in these years of my university studies.

I know I don't have words to thank you for all the unconditional support you have given me. I hope with all my heart that God will work greatly in your projects. This year, thank God, in November I will be receiving my degree in Respiratory Therapy. Thank you so much for the time you allowed me to be in the Los Pinos Home. As I finalize my university studies, I am happy that soon I will be working in my profession in one of the national hospitals in the capital city.

A thousand thanks, with all my heart! May life continue to reward you with beautiful gifts just like you have given to me, and many more.

I want to take this opportunity to wish you a prosperous New Year.

With much affection and very grateful,

Silvia



Ana [left] and Silvia [right] at their recent graduation as respiratory therapists

Lilian—Mother to 44 & More—Because of You!

You may have wished to be the one providing care for the orphan children in an ICC village. The following story from El Salvador will give you a glimpse of what it's like to be a house mother. Lilian, affectionately known as “Mami Lilian,” has given her life in service for children in El Salvador. She couldn't have done this work alone. You stand with her as you faithfully support the children with your monthly gifts.

Mami Lilian and her husband, Julio, began working at the children's village in El Salvador many years ago. She was very worried when they assigned 22 kids to her, ages four to thirteen. As you might understand, it took about three months for things to start running smoothly. At night Mami Lilian, Papi Julio and the house aunt divided up the kids and prayed with and for them and told them Bible stories. There were many times that Mami Lilian felt overwhelmed and thought they should quit. Now almost 17 years have passed and both can say that their lives are not the same. The blessings of this work have met their expectations.

In 2001, the house they lived in was expanded. After the addition was complete, 44 children were assigned to Mami Lilian and Papi Julio. There were little boys and girls and teenagers. It became more difficult to give attention to each of them. One of the most challenging things for Mami Lilian was dealing with so many different personalities and behaviors. She was having to deal with the conflicts of 44 children!

Although not every child in her care took advantage of the opportunities they were given, Mami Lilian is pleased to see many of them living their own lives, in their own homes, with husbands or wives and children. She says she is a grandma now! Some are professionals, and sometimes they come and visit. She loves to see those still at home going to university preparing to be good men and women.

ICC now administers the El Salvador project. All but one of the children living in her home are ones she has watched grow up. God has shown Mami Lilian and Papi Julio a lot. They have learned to love every girl and boy as if they were their own. They guide them in their spiritual lives, discipline them, love them and give them a home in which to change their lives.

When Mami Lilian and Papi Julio came to the children's village they had two boys of their own. Their third son was born not long after. He has grown up just like the other kids. For him it's been a normal life. This is his home and he loves each of the other kids as his own brothers and sisters. He is now 11 years old. Mami Lilian says; “This is his world.” And she adds; “This is our world.”



Lilian [right] and one of her girls

You play a critical role in the lives of El Salvador's kids because of your support.

Please help Wilfredo for just \$1 a day

Make it a “Happy New Year” for an Orphan!

As 2016 begins we take a collective deep breath and prepare for the opportunities and challenges that lie ahead. While there is much uncertainty in this world, we do serve a loving Father who is faithfully looking after His own.

The need for orphan care continues to grow as wars, disease and social problems threaten the lives of innocent children. We receive many urgent calls to help orphans, but we don't have the budget to help all of them. With your help, we can and will provide care for some of them. Here's just one example.



This little fella is Wilfredo. He knows very well what it means to be alone. His father was not a part of his life and his mother tried to make ends meet on her own. Wilfredo had no other family members who could look after him while his mother was working. The only option she found for his care was to rent a room and leave him by himself in that room all day. You can imagine how this made him feel — scared, lonely, bored. Wilfredo would often leave that solitary room and wander the streets during the day returning after dark. Fearing for his safety and having no other options, Wilfredo's mother came to our children's village to ask us to take him in.

You can help be the solution for Wilfredo or a child like him. Do you realize that for as little as a dollar a day you can help to provide a home and a loving family for Wilfredo or another child like him?

That's right. YOUR monthly donation or sponsorship provides the nurturing care Wilfredo needs for now and in the future. He will have a mom and a dad. He will have brothers and sisters. He will not be alone anymore.

As this new year begins, please renew your support of Wilfredo and children like him by sending a gift today. You can use the included coupon to tell us how you wish to help.

*Please send a gift to help
Wilfredo today — and thank you!*

In His Service,

Rick Fleck