



FEBRUARY 2018

# QUÉ PASA

What's Happening

A Publication of International Children's Care  
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## Still There for the Children, Thanks to You!

In the past 40 years ICC has welcomed thousands of orphaned and abandoned children into loving and nurturing family homes. It is donors like you who make this possible because of your generous and sacrificial support.

In spite of all you have helped us accomplish, it's sad to realize that, as time passes, there hasn't been any real improvement in the plight of at-risk children in the general population of poorer countries.

Children are still orphaned and abandoned. These children need the support that you so faithfully give through your monthly gifts.

Two sets of siblings recently arrived at the Las Palmas Children's Village in the Dominican Republic. Here are their stories.

**The mother of these siblings died from head trauma.** Someone found her body on the bank of the Yuca River. The father was sentenced to 20 years in jail for her death.

After the death of their mother, the children lived with their paternal grandparents. The mother's parents feel no responsibility for the children. Due to the age and poor health of the paternal grandparents, They could not provide proper care for the children. Their oldest brother ran away from the grandparents and drowned in the river. To protect the other children the grandparents decided something must be done. So, they brought them to Las Palmas where they could be raised safely and with Christian principles.



**These four siblings were abandoned by their mother.** The father did not have a way to support them financially. He left the family after he found out the youngest girl was not his. She was the daughter of his brother who had been staying with the family.

One day the mother showed up at the father's work with the two oldest children. She told the father that he had to take them. He then went to the house and found the younger two children. They were crying. No one was caring for them. He reported the mother to the authorities. The mother is now in Jail. Since the father cannot care for the children, the courts brought the children to Las Palmas.

**It is such a tragedy** that the families of these children have been torn apart! However, Thanks to the generosity of ICC family members like you, these children receive the love and care they need and have hope for a better future. Can they count on you?

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# News and Notes

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## “Stepping Out in Faith” Update

Thanks to the outpouring of generosity from donors like you, December’s “Stepping out in Faith” funding effort was fully matched! The original amount of \$125,000 was doubled to \$250,000! The children wish to thank you very much for your gifts. What a blessing you are to them!



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## Update on the New Children in Congo

As you may recall from last month’s *Que Pasa*, the Patmos Children’s Village in the D.R. Congo received 31 new children within the past several months. This was due to devastation caused by mudslides and the aftermath of rebels attacking refugee camps.

The initial effort focused on saving the lives of those children who were near the point of death and restoring all the children to health. We are thankful that, at last report, none of the children who are now with us have died.

Social unrest continues in the D.R. Congo due to the political situation. This remains an on-going concern. Please pray for Patmos and the children who are still trying to gain strength and health.



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## Mail Service to Guatemala is “Not In Service”

Alanna Jones, ICC Sponsorship Coordinator

For you who sponsor children in Guatemala, I want to be sure you know the mail service to Guatemala is not currently functioning. Some sponsors who’ve tried to send cards or letters had them returned.

I am offering you the choice to send items directly to the ICC HQ office. Once Guatemala’s mail service is working again, I will send a package filled with your letters. Should someone travel to Los Pinos before service is restored, I will send the package of your letters with them. I will also let you know when Guatemala’s mail service is working again. Thanks so much for your patience and understanding.



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## Save the Date – April 28, 2018.

Please mark your calendars for a special 40th anniversary recognition service on Sabbath afternoon, April 28 in Vancouver, Washington.

In the next edition of the *Que Pasa*, we will share further details as well as the specific time and location.

Plan on joining us for this special occasion of remembering and sharing God’s blessings during the past 40 years.

**40**  
*Years*  
INTERNATIONAL  
CHILDREN’S CARE

**SAVE  
THE  
DATE**

# Faithfully Serving the Children

**F**or most of the past 35 years, Mario and Samilin Lora have faithfully served the children of Las Palmas in the Dominican Republic. In 1983 Samilin came to Las Palmas when her parents joined the staff. She was only 17 at the time.

With a chuckle, Samilin vividly remembers the first children who arrived on campus. Everyone was thrilled. These children came from the nearby village and looked so pitiful—with distended bellies and full of parasites. This was the start of the program, or so everyone thought at the time!

The children were cleaned up, given fresh clothes and some nourishing food. Everyone was happy—until the next day when family members of these children came to the campus all concerned about their well-being. Yes, the children were in poor shape. They appeared to be orphans living on the streets. But they had distant relatives and neighbors who heard that the Americans had taken their children to use their organs and eyeballs.

Sheepishly, the staff watched as these children left with these community members. However, these “first children” left behind a good lesson and principle that sticks with our project administrators to this day—be sure to follow ICC protocols so they are legally taken into care. Despite this early setback, it wasn’t long after this experience that Las Palmas did start receiving children who legitimately needed the help for which ICC is known.

Eventually, Samilin met and married Mario Lora. Together they spent some time in Puerto Rico and also working at the Adventist University in the Dominican Republic. Then in 1991, Samilin’s mother called her and Mario to come and join the staff of Las Palmas. Samilin became the children’s services director and Mario became the chaplain and accountant.

Samilin recalls how difficult it was for her at first to take on the challenges of overseeing the parents. Since she is somewhat small, the parents joked that they would “put this little auntie in a sack” so they would not have to obey her. This was a trial by fire for Samilin, and one that she won through God’s help and her determination. She recalls that once the parents understood ICC’s model and implemented it consistently, things went much better. Samilin grew in experience and capacity as the children’s services director and also obtained her master’s degree in Educational Administration. Then, in 1998 when her mother retired, ICC asked Samilin to take on the responsibilities as project administrator—a position she continues to hold today.

The children of ICC have been blessed by the tireless, sacrificial and dedicated service this faithful couple have given to them through the years. We value them as cherished members of the ICC family.

*Read the complete story about Samilin and Mario. Visit the ICC Blog at [ForHisKids.org/iccblog](http://ForHisKids.org/iccblog).*



Samilin and Mario Lora have been serving the children of the Las Palmas Children’s Village in the Dominican Republic since 1991.



**40**  
**Years**  
**INTERNATIONAL**  
**CHILDREN’S CARE**

# Your Support helps Dayamani Care for Orphans in India

The impact of your gifts on behalf of the children is powerful. Hope for a better future springs up, and young lives are transformed. However, the impact of your gift would not be as far-reaching if it wasn't for the care provided by loving house mothers like Mrs. Dayamani Nimmaka. Dayamani is a mother of ICC children at the DEWS Sweet Home in India. She is responsible to feed and clothe the children and make sure they participate in school activities. She also strives to help develop their characters for this life and for the future life in heaven.

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*“My prayer is that someday the children will grow up strong and be faithful to the service of God.”*

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Recently, Dayamani was asked the following three questions. Her answers reveal some of the challenges she faces and what motivates her to serve the children as their house mother.

## 1. *What challenges do you face in your work as a house parent?*

**As a house parent** It is not an easy thing to have the children doing exactly what I want them to do all the time. When I come across some children with an attitude I get upset, but I experience the same with my own children. I like to be patient and take time to help the children understand that I am doing this for their own good. I like to talk and spend time with the child as their own parent would do on individual basis and be kind to them.

## 2. *What is your motivation?*

**As a house parent** it is my responsibility to keep every child on the right path so that they can achieve their goals. I feel very proud when they complete their studies with a good name and grades. I always pray for their success. The desire and motivation comes when the children consider me as their own parent; it helps me to continue my work with patience, and I feel rewarded.

## 3. *What keeps you going and doing your best for the children?*

**As a house parent** it is my goal to help the children develop their minds and talents and to do their best in their studies, work, play, and in their spiritual life. I want them to shine in their lives with great achievements and be a blessing in the community and in the homes. My prayer is that someday the children will grow up strong and be faithful to the service of God.



**The generous support of ICC family members like you enables Dayamani to serve the children with love and compassion. Thank you!**