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# QUÉ PASA

What's Happening

A Publication of International Children's Care  
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## Educating For A Brighter Future

*Thanks to you*

**Y**our generous support helps provide quality education for ICC's children.

Whether it's four of our girls attending the Adventist high school in Romania, or grown-up children finishing their university degrees in India, Ghana, the Dominican Republic, Mexico and Guatemala, or the more than 100 children in the D.R. Congo who are engaged in various levels of instruction, **the ICC education program is a ticket to a brighter future — for this world and the world to come.**

Claudia is a good example of this. Claudia was only four when she came to live at our Hogar Escuela Adventista (HEA) Children's Village in El Salvador.

Her father had abandoned the family, and her mother was losing the battle of trying to provide a safe environment for Claudia and her younger brother.

Claudia grew up within the HEA family. She attended elementary and secondary school and was involved in the church program on campus. She believed that a daily relationship with God helped her to make good decisions.

Through the generous support of the ICC family, Claudia was able

to enroll in University in 2013. She majored in Marketing and International Business. During her studies, she was twice given the opportunity to travel to the United States for an internship. This was a reward for her good grades.

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**“Education ... is a ticket to a brighter future.”**

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However, both times she declined the offer because of possible Sabbath conflicts and because of the cost it would have meant to her ICC family while living abroad.

Claudia recently graduated with her degree. She is a testimony to the outcome of your support!

As another school year begins, it reminds us all of the import role that education plays in the lives of children like Claudia.

The cost of education is not cheap. Neither is the cost of ignorance. Your investment in the lives of the children's education is paying divides now and for eternity.

**Please consider making an extra special gift this month in support of education for a child like Claudia. May God bless you for all you do for the children!**



This is Claudia. She recently graduated university with her degree in Marketing and International Business.

Claudia grew up at the Hogar Escuela Adventista Children's Village in El Salvador.

Because of people like you, Claudia was able to obtain not only her primary and secondary education, but an advanced degree as well.

It is through your support and investment in the future of these children that they are able to receive their education.

Education is an investment that will pay dividends now and for eternity.

# The Impact Of Your Support

An interview with Huridis Fortuna, one of ICC's grown children

*By Makala James*

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Huridis' life changed forever when he came to live at Las Palmas Children's Village in the Dominican Republic.

He flourished, earned his degree in Theology, married the love of his life, Hannah, and is now serving in ministry and sharing the Gospel

I recently had the opportunity to speak with Huridis about his experience growing up as an ICC kid.

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**D**id you have a difficult childhood before coming to the Las Palmas Children's Village?

I had a rough childhood. There is an illustration that I use in my sermons.

How do you purify gold? It's with fire. It's a hard and long process, but in the end what you get is fine, pure gold.

Whatever happened in my life as a child, I see as a blessing. God used that to make me the person I am today.

**W**hat do you remember of your first day at Las Palmas?

My first day at the orphanage, I arrived with a little backpack, a pair of pants, a pair of socks, and a shirt. That's all I brought because I had nothing else.

The director said, "Where are your clothes?" She was surprised that I didn't have anything. After meeting my teacher and classmates, we went to the warehouse and got a bunch of clothes and



Makala James [left] sits with Huridis Fortuna [right] in Keen, Texas. Makala had the opportunity to speak with Huridis about his life before, and while, Huridis was growing up at the Las Palmas Children's Village.

shoes. I got a pillow that is kind of like a race car, and I still keep that with me today.

Then, I heard that everyone at the church and village had been praying for me. They did not know me, but everyone was praying for me to get there. I was amazed!

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**“Whatever happened in my life as a child, I see as a blessing.”**  
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**H**ow did the children's village affect your spiritual life?

Certainly, it made a big impact on my life. I still remember how, to wake us up, the dad of the house would play Christian music in the living room.

That would be the time for us to gather around the table for worship. We would sing songs, study the bible, pray, and have worship together as a family.

That helped me have a deeper relationship with Jesus.

Not only that, but we were also encouraged to have our own personal time reading the bible and praying.

**A**fter you finished worship, what was a typical day like?

On a typical day in high school, which was the best time, we would wake up in the morning to have worship together. Then we would do our chores, such as cleaning the bathroom or bedroom or yard... Whatever was assigned to us.

Afterwards, we would get ready for school and eat breakfast. Breakfast might be yucca with cheese or plantains and eggs, maybe cereal, fruit, and milk.

We attended school, and then came home around lunch time. After an hour break for lunch, then we had two hours of work, required of everybody.

After work I would either do homework or go to music school to practice the cello.

In the evening, we had dinner and evening worship as a family.

# The Impact Of Your Support

An interview with Huridis Fortuna, one of ICC's grown children

## Did you always stay in the same family?

I stayed with the same family for my whole time at the orphanage until I turned 18. That year we separated from the younger children, but still remained in the same family.

I helped the younger kids with their homework and chores at home. We moved to a bigger house because the house we were living in was kind of small. It was the same family all the time.

## Tell me about an ICC sibling to whom you still feel close?

Alexandra! When I first arrived at the orphanage we used to fight and argue. I couldn't stand her.

Now we are really good friends. She came to my wedding two years ago when I got married. She's coming to visit again, and we keep in touch.

## How does having an advanced education impact your life?

It certainly makes a difference when you get an education. Seeing it from a professional point of view, we live in a competitive world.

If you have no education, then you are behind. It's really hard for you to find a job and survive.

Because of my education, I am able to serve and support ICC, to give back to the place that helped me to become who I am.

## Share a bit about when you felt called to ministry?

When I look back to my childhood and to what I've been through in my life, how God

rescued me from what I could have been, it's like a calling.

It's like God telling me, "I want you for a special mission." That helps me to understand that I've been called for something special.

Once I was at [Las Palmas], I kept growing in my faith and in my relationship with Jesus.

I participated in church and everybody used to call me pastorcito, which means little pastor. I didn't want to be pastor, because, honestly, I was afraid!

But I grew up and felt called in many ways. I realized, God can use my life and story.

## How did your life change when you were accepted into the ICC family?

It was a big change. I got my education and things that I needed right there. For me, it was all I ever wanted. It was my family.

## Understand that you and your wife sponsor a child. Can you tell me about that?

We do! Actually, we're in the process of getting a second one. We visited our sponsorship child. He was really happy when we went to see him. When we got home, we wrote a letter and sent a photo to him of all of us.

## When you were a child, did it matter when sponsors wrote you or sent you pictures?

It's very important to write to the children. I felt special when a sponsor wrote me. I felt I was connecting with my sponsor. It was easier to reply to that person, especially when they'd sent me pictures and asked me questions.



Hannah and Huridis Fortuna on their wedding day.

## How do the ICC children who are now adults relate to the children's village?

We have a group of generation that comes together like an alumni association, and there's a president.

We gather money and donations to take to the children's village. We come together at Christmas, and put on a Christmas program. Recently, we raised funds for school shoes.

## Why is it important to do these things for the kids?

I went there and I received help. Once I grew up, I realized how important it was that someone helped me, that someone raised money for me to eat and go to school. It's heart touching to do the same for those children who are also in need.

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A special thank you to Huridis for sharing his story about his experience at Las Palmas!

God will continue to use Huridis in wonderful ways, just as He is working in the lives of all ICC children.  
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# Picking More Than A Peck Of Peppers

Update from the El Oasis jalapeno farm

**T**hanks to the generous support of ICC family members we exceeded the matching grant offer to expand the Jalapeno crop at the El Oasis Children's Village in Mexico. This has provided over \$100,000 of capital for this important Agribusiness.

We are excited to announce that the harvest of Jalapeno peppers has begun. Not only has your support enabled us to triple the size of the field under cultivation this year, we're also seeking to increase profitability by separating the peppers into various sizes and categories.

Better quality peppers can be sold for a higher price. To help with this, we've been able to borrow a conveyor belt which you can see in the picture below.

If all goes as planned, there will be several pickings during harvest season. One picking takes several days to complete.

The first picking should yield between 65–75 tons of peppers. With God's blessing and good weather, the yield this season could be up to 1,000 tons! That's a lot of peppers — and a huge means of support for the El Oasis project.

**Please join with us in praying for this pepper project. And thank you for your ongoing support in helping us develop sustaining industries which will bless the children for years to come!**



[Above]: Tomatillos from the El Oasis farm. [Below left]: The conveyor sorting line and peppers grown at El Oasis.

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(800) 422-7729

[DougC@ForHisKids.org](mailto:DougC@ForHisKids.org)

When soliciting funds for a specific need, we occasionally receive more in donations than requested. In those instances when we do receive more money than solicited, those extra funds are placed in "Alcyon's Angel Fund." To protect the privacy of our children, ICC uses fictitious names in the Que Pasa when referring to minor children.