

Against All Odds!



I'll never forget meeting Jenny Orozco. With a twinkle in her eye, a happy smile and a contagious laugh, she made even a visitor feel welcome and immediately at home. As we wove through Managua, Nicaragua, rush-hour traffic heading toward a section of town called René Polanco, I sensed her love for this place and for the children and families who walk these streets.

It's not easy growing up immersed in an environment of violence, addiction, abuse and poverty. Jenny and her (late) husband Pastor Luis Ampie longed for something better for their then 5-year-old daughter, Josseling, and her generation. So they dared to dream big. They dared to envision the presence of a safe haven in an unsafe neighborhood, an oasis in the desert, a light in the darkness.

In 2004, against all odds, Jenny and Luis founded The Messiah Free Methodist School. I say "against all odds," because all they had at the time was a physical school building, lovingly built by generous VISA teams. No experience or training in the field of education. No curriculum, no teachers, no resources. Just an abso-



lute conviction that God wanted them to make a mighty impact in the community through Christian education. They fully believed God would make a way for them to provide excellence in academics and Christian development. The school began with 120 children.

Two years later, in 2006, ICCM teamed up with The Messiah Free Methodist School in ministering to the needs of students. Josseling was the first of 50 children sponsored. Over the years, many lives have been forever touched by the program.

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I want to thank God and all the people who have sponsored children like me for helping us reach our goals.

I especially want to thank my own sponsors who supported me through my elementary and high school years. It was a tremendous joy to be accepted into the university. I am studying geology, a topic of great interest to me. I hope to use my knowledge someday for the betterment of my family and society.



I will always be thankful for what ICCM sponsorship did for me. I will never forget the people who supported and helped make my dreams come true. — Josseling

(Continued from front.) ICCM National Coordinator Jenny recently explained, "ICCM plays a vital role in helping our children and youth reach their potential. The program helps us focus not only on intellectual growth, but physical, social/emotional and spiritual, as well. Sponsorship has made it possible for many to complete primary and secondary education. After graduating, several are going on to university to become change-makers in their communities and society."

If you would have asked me in 2003, "Is it possible to open the school in such a short time?," I would have said, "Absolutely not!" But God had other plans. Jenny was right in tune with those plans and today she joyfully leads a team of educators in ministering to the needs of 450 students grades Pre-K through 12th. Jenny returned to school and earned a Master of Education degree.

Thanks to sponsorship through ICCM, boys and girls are not only surviving, but now thriving in their community in Managua, Nicaragua.



Enjoying Nicaragua's rich heritage through traditional dance.

More Good News!

A second school, The Good Shepherd Free Methodist School, opened in Managua in the neighboring community of Francisco Salazar in 2010. Pastor Felix Davila and his daughter, Socorro (the director of the school), began with 50 students in grades Pre-K through 1st.



This year celebrates the first class to graduate 6th grade at The Good Shepherd. Enrollment has risen to 295. There is a waiting list. They will continue to add a grade every year with the goal of eventually educating grades Pre-K through 12th.

Both schools offer children the opportunity to receive a well-rounded, Christ-centered education where they can come to know and serve Jesus. The schools work hand in hand with local Free Methodist churches and ICCM to provide for the educational, physical, emotional/social and spiritual needs of children.



I have had the marvelous opportunity to be the psychologist at The Messiah Free Methodist School for six years. I have come to know many students and families. Among them is Emmanuel Salvador, 17, who has been a great inspiration to me.

He came to our school when he was 9 years old. Abandoned by his father, Emmanuel feared he would become a good-for-nothing like his dad predicted. Despite missing school frequently to help support the family, having no home support system, acting out in class and being isolated by his peers, Emmanuel wanted to succeed.

I began to work with him on self-esteem and developing a love and respect for God, for himself and for others. Sponsorship freed him up to attend school rather than working during the day.

Today Emmanuel comes to school well kept, supplies in hand and ready to learn. He is known for cooperation and persevering to overcome obstacles. He is a hard worker. Eight years of ICCM sponsorship has him on the right path. In November he will graduate from high school! — Scarleth