

Reflections REFLECTION?

October 2020
iccm
International Child Care Ministries
by Alma Thompson ICCM Director

Pivoting with Grace and Excellence

Gaze, fixed on the ball. Goal net, visible in the corner of the eye. One step from the victory point.

A speedy defender unexpectedly approaches from the side, and behind, out of nowhere. **Pivot.** Keeping eye on the ball. Forty-five-degree plant-foot shift.

Crisp pass to a teammate, who places perfectly.

Cross field. Upper corner. "GOOOAL!"



Pivot:(n.): The central point on which a mechanism turns.

For ICCM, the **central point** on which we operate, the point of exceptional versatility, is our one-to-one model of sponsorship: **from your wallet, through the central office, and into the field.** Just like that, you are an active participant in the global humanitarian aid crisis of this pandemic.

The funding received from donors continues to provide life-changing benefits for children across the globe. You are investing in the power of the transforming Gospel, cultivating faith and hope in the lives of children in 33 countries, awaiting the fruit they will bring forth as they mature. You are offering these children new vision in which they are able to create goals, dream futuristically, and live with purpose, even in uncertain times.



Your generosity is invaluable. Your partnership is a gift.

Since its inception, ICCM has been focused on schools, learning centers, and residential living models as primary vehicles through which the holistic development of children can be nurtured. We have watched more than 100,000 lives be transformed through ICCM support over the last 50+ years, as we've worked to supplement locally available resources and meet the deepest needs of children and families internationally.

We have seen the fruits of our labor, the victory points, in community leaders who once benefitted from ICCM sponsorship. We have fixed our gaze on our guiding principles, which have focused our daily actions. We have continued to strategically invest in our vision (developing our global teams, leveraging our technology and completing our capital projects). Yet **overnight, seemingly out of nowhere, a fearsome opponent threatened to block our target.**





Pivot (v.): *The single word by which thousands of organizations are being evaluated in this COVID-19 chapter.*

Despite the devastation COVID-19 has wreaked across countries, sponsorship has empowered ICCM to pivot organizationally, with smooth, grace-filled precision. We prayed and discerned what our next steps would be, ensuring we would lean into actions to do the most good and cause the least harm – actions that would reflect proper stewardship of the resources with which we have been entrusted. We have not been thrown off the course of our mission or lessened our efforts. Our primary focus shifted, just 45 degrees: to make sure our children and their families have food.

When families have food, children are more likely to be safe. When children are safe, they are able to more freely participate in their everyday lives, living out all that they have been divinely created to do. When children are living out their divine calling, we see the tangible result of our return on investment, and our missional work comes full-circle. We have planted our feet in meeting this immediate need, confident in our shift, knowing that when we are obedient and rooted in what we are called to do, we are strengthened by the One from Whom it all flows.

As we navigate the field of life, especially in these times, we are reminded of how much we need our teammates. We are humbled and grateful for your partnership and continued efforts to support our mission. Your \$1 a day commitment is developing the next generation of transformational world-changers. It is fostering respectful, unique, faith-filled cross-cultural relationships, which express the unity of the body of Christ in rich diversity.

You have been divinely graced, placed perfectly in our path for the holistic care of these children. When we inevitably encounter the speedy defenders that approach unexpectedly, we can and will remain confident in our vision, our partners, our children, and our Lord. And we'll pivot into the next season.

If you are a sponsor – if you donate to support ICCM and its sponsorship model – YOUR generosity has allowed us to pivot thus far: with beauty, grace, and excellence.

That, beloved, is what we call, a “GOOOAL!”

