WHAT TO EXPECT:
NICARAGUA PUMP REPAIR TRIPS

So you’re going on a Pump Repair trip to Nicaragua and want to know what to expect? Here are some details of what your trip will look like.

Region and Purpose:
Living Water International Pump Repair mission teams currently work in the northern part of Nicaragua; primarily in the smaller communities around the cities of Leon, Chinandega, Matagalpa, and Somotillo. Our pump repair program performs the regularly scheduled maintenance and repairs on Living Water wells, in addition to locating and repairing wells drilled by other agencies that have fallen into disrepair. Each team will assess well performance, perform well maintenance, and partner with local communities to find solutions to bring the well back into service. Each year, the Living Water team partners with groups from North America to make generational change through the gift of clean water and through the grace of the living water that is Jesus Christ. Our hope is that during the trip you will make meaningful relationships, experience a slower pace of life, and witness the faithfulness of God, returning home transformed.
WEATHER:
Teams can expect warm and coastal weather, with highs in the 90s and lows in the 80s. If traveling during the rainy season (May to November), be sure to pack a light rain coat. Drink lots of water and take time to rest in the shade to avoid heat exhaustion.

 LODGING:
Teams will stay at the home of Jairo Salazar, our country director, located in a neighborhood just outside the city center of León.

FOOD:
If you’re expecting to lose a few pounds on your mission trip - don’t! Our wonderful cook will not allow it. Team members will enjoy typical Nicaraguan meals at the house. Expect to eat plenty of beans, rice, tortillas, chicken, plantains, and eggs.

CULTURE
It cannot be stressed enough that the time spent in Central America is primarily about relationships. When establishing a relationship with a Nicaraguan resident, it is very important to be sensitive to their culture. Nicaraguans are kind and giving. Respect is an important element in relationships, and Nicaraguans can be formal when showing respect. Team members will experience the hospitality, goodness, and friendliness of the Nicaraguan people as they live and work with them throughout the week.

SPECIAL CULTURAL ISSUES TO NOTE:
» Latin American culture is generally very proper, so be polite and use good manners. Do not be abrasive, aggressive, or demanding. Body language communicates much more than we realize — seek to communicate what is in your heart with your face and your actions.

» Latin America is a male-dominated culture. Whether we agree with it or not, as we are coming into their country, we must respect that. Women need to dress extra modestly. Do not hold extended eye contact with men, and do not allow body orientation to become too close as the wrong intentions may be communicated. Men can set a great example through their interactions with female team members and the local women. These interactions will be watched and can effect positive change.

» Morality is very important to Nicaraguans and they have very high standards for Christians. A
Christian witness can easily be hurt by something that might not be considered offensive to North American Christians. For this reason, it is very important that there is no consumption/use of alcohol, drugs, or tobacco; no use of profanity or innuendos, or inappropriate displays of affection.

**TENTATIVE ITINERARY**
(Subject to change)

**SATURDAY**
- Arrive in Managua
Welcome to Nicaragua! Team members will be met by Jairo Salazar at the Managua airport. He will drive everyone to the team house and give the team an overview of what to expect for the week.

**SUNDAY:**
- Church
- Lunch
- Prepare for the week
Today, teams will experience a Nicaraguan church service. Nicaraguans like to dress up for church. Men should wear pants with a collared shirt and ladies should wear a modest dress or skirt with a sleeved shirt. After church, the team will go to a local restaurant for lunch to enjoy some delicious Nicaraguan food. The afternoon will be spent relaxing and preparing for the week’s presentation of lessons and repair work.

**MONDAY - THURSDAY:**
- Well repairs
- Hygiene, Bible stories, crafts, games
Each day will begin with breakfast together and devotion time. Teams will leave for the community at 8 in the morning and return around 4:30 that afternoon. When arriving in a community, take time to meet the people. This is vitally important relationship-building time. Shake hands with everyone and smile; even if you do not speak Spanish this shows you care. After introductions, the field staff will pray before the repair and hygiene teams begin their projects. Take turns fixing the pump, talking, sharing, and playing with the children from the community. Try to build relationships. The trip is about much more than pipes and wrenches. Sometimes fixing a pump takes longer than planned; be patient, flexible and cover everything in prayer. When in doubt, remember: our field staff are the expert repairmen. Never take
action without their permission and always follow their lead. With God’s blessing, the team will successfully repair the well. Please do not leave behind any gifts or make promises; while this feels instinctual, it can be damaging and the relationship should not be about what the community does/does not receive. Please do not provide your contact information except email, and only do so when willing to write bilingually. Be aware that this may initiate requests for money or travel to the States, which is something Living Water does not support. We recommend journaling when arriving back at the team house while the feelings, thoughts and images of the trip are still vivid.

**FRIDAY:**
» Tourist day
» Pack
Various activities will be offered and it is nice after a hard week to relax and enjoy some down time. Please continue to pray for the village and know remember that they are in God’s hands.

**SATURDAY:**
» Leave for home
Team members will get up early, have breakfast, then head to the airport.

**NICARAGUA STAFF**

**DAVID LEATHERWOOD**
David is the Living Water staff member responsible for coordinating your Pump Repair trip. He grew up as a missionary kid in several different countries including Mongolia, Jordan, and Iraq. David studied Intercultural Studies at Providence College and Seminary in Winnipeg, Canada. Most recently David spent 3.5 years in Rwanda directing Living Water’s programs there. He is passionate about sharing the love of Christ and enjoys traveling, experiencing new cultures, missions, and spending time with his family.

**JAIRO**
Jairo Salazar is a native Nicaraguan who manages pump repair operations in country, and also leads and hosts pump repair mission trips. Jairo speaks English fluently and loves to share with team members the history and culture of Nicaragua. Jairo and his wife Magda have two children, Brian and Jonathan.

**YAMILLETH**
Yamileth is head of the hygiene education program and has a passion to help the women of Nicaragua learn how to better care for their families. She is a great aid to women wanting to facilitate hygiene on our mission trips.
Isidro Gonzales is also a native Nicaraguan and has been with Living Water since the beginning of the program in Nicaragua. He began as a community leader locating potential drill sites and today is actively involved with the pump repair ministry. Isidro is definitely invaluable in helping navigate the countryside of Nicaragua!

Pump Repair Crew
Isidro, Eric, Axner, Herberth, Ronald, and Pastor Santos make up our hard-working and fun-loving pump repair team!

Maritza
Maritza is our amazing cook! You will be blessed to enjoy the delicious meals that she lovingly prepares for the mission teams.

Living Water History:
Richard Bell, a long time Living Water volunteer had a heart to know and serve the people of Nicaragua. Through his leadership and vision, Living Water began sending drill teams to Nicaragua over five years ago. Since then, the program has grown tremendously.

In 2008, Dennis and Susan Trumblee began a pump repair program that repaired hundreds of hand pumps that were outside of the Living Water drilling program. In 2011, Jairo Salazar took over for the Trumblees and is now responsible for Living Water’s Pump Repair Program in Nicaragua. This program is designed to work with each community towards long-term sustainability.