

RBW Missions

Isaiah 58

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Repair

Rebuild

Restore

It's been a fast three months since our last prayer letter and it has been busy. We enjoyed Christmas in Nicaragua with the Espinoza family and the Smith's from Montana. Brent, Carla, Ellie, and Sam got more acquainted with the farm and the guys who have been put in charge of it, and they got to meet all of the pastors as they came to receive their quarterly sponsorship funds. It was wonderful introducing our family from the States to our family in Nicaragua and watching them bond through the shared love for Christ and His Kingdom.

January saw us in Nicaragua again, but this time with a team from Community Christian School in Willmar, MN. They were making their maiden partnership trip to the Nandaimé Blessing of God School and it was a hoot to work with them and see their enthusiasm for the kids at the school and the ministry there. We went through the book "The Christian Athiest" by Craig Groeschel for our morning devotions and spent a lot of time learning and discussing what it means to be an authentic follower of Jesus.



TESTIMONY FROM THE FIELD:



Pastor Luis Nicaragua and his wife, Saida, just celebrated their 30th year of marriage. But it hasn't been 30 years of wedded bliss. In fact, they are going to be sharing their story of how God brought love to their marriage after 27 years of lovelessness through the ministry of José and Nora Rivera at the last couple of pastor's retreats. As we talked together in January, their faces radiated the new joy of being married AND being in love with each other. They described it as being on a three year honeymoon for which they've waited 27 years. They in turn, have been sharing the help they received with other pastors and couples in their area.

On a side note, Pastor Luis has lost most of his teeth and is praying for assistance to get some dentures so he can talk and eat better. He's shopped around and can get them for about \$250. If there's anyone who would like to sponsor that gift, we'd be thrilled to get that to him at the retreat.



AAP RETREAT:



Adopt a Pastor Retreat 2018

In less than 2 weeks, we will be hosting 100 pastors and wives at the 4th Pastor's Retreat in San Marcos, Nicaragua. Having met with all the pastors in December of last year, we can feel the excitement that is growing as they look forward to this time of refreshment, encouragement and sharing. With the theme of "Comforted That We Might Comfort," we're going to have various pastors share their personal stories and we're going to pray for those who are struggling through the same difficulties or testings. Pray for the final arrangements and for the provision of the Lord for all the needs.



Pastor Juan Carlos Castro and Marta have had a rough year. They started building a home for their family but then Juan Carlos got peritonitis from a bowel perforation and spent 25 days in the hospital, nearly dying during the 8 days in ICU. It's been a hard recovery and he's still very weak but walks a mile to the church 3-4 times a week to minister there.



Though he was tired and discouraged when we went to visit him last month, he saw that Enrique was tired and discouraged because of his limitations his stroke. As he prayed for Enrique and I prayed for him, we were all encouraged and strengthened. The house they are living in is falling apart and they would like to get on with their house construction, but he's too weak and all their money has gone to medical expenses. For about \$4,000, we can help them finish their house. A small work team could go and help his church family work on it and get it done, thereby carrying one another's burdens.



"Bear one another's burdens, and so fulfill the law of Christ."

Galatians 6:2 (ESV)

Anyone interested?

BLESSING OF GOD FARM INITIATIVE (BOGFI) UPDATE:

The small plot of land is producing guineas (small plantains most commonly eaten by the poorer families in Nicaragua), which are used by the school to feed the children and sell for 1 Cordoba each (= 3.5¢). The school kitchen is also feeding them the beans that they harvested in December.

CURRENT NEEDS:

- 1) A Pick-up to transport workers and product from the field. This one is available for purchase for about \$4,500.
- 2) Because of the distance and terrain of the current land, we are looking for a larger piece of flatter land which is closer to the Nandaime Church / School. In the meantime, we have two able-bodied and willing men who are ready to begin working full-time for the project, we just need \$400 a month to insure their salaries for a year.
- 3) The school has added 10th grade this year, which has increased it's need for staff and supplies. We've got the Student Sponsorship up and running. For more info, please visit our website: rbwmisissions.com/#/nicaragua-opportunities/blessing-of-god-school



"Therefore, pray earnestly to the Lord of the harvest to send out laborers."

Matthew 9:38 (ESV)