



The Power of One

I've always loved stories about the unexpected influence one person can have. Jane came to serve at our March Pastor's Retreat. She met Pastor Juan Carlos when we went to pray for him. He couldn't join the other pastors because of

a recent surgery. Jane saw a need (his house was in sad! shape and the new one he had started wasn't getting done because of lack of strength and finances). She went home, listened to the voice of the Lord, got a team together and sent her hubby and 4 friends down to do something about the need. They didn't know that they were signing up to go into a country simmering like a volcano with political unrest. The weeks before the trip, we all prayed and listened to news reports and went back and forth if it was wise to go or not. These men didn't waver in their resolve though - and so, in the "eye of the storm," (time-wise and location-wise), they headed to Nicaragua to "do something." It was hard work - carrying hundred pound bags of cement, hand mixing it, mudding the walls, digging the forms, carrying the mix in 5-gallon buckets



or pushing a wheelbarrow full of the soupy sauce. They learned how the Nicaraguan believers work and live and how they handle the threat of war. They saw the roadblocks, prayed through the encounters with masked protesters, befriended our interpreter and encouraged him each day as he watched the situation spiral downward and returned home each night to the hot spot of the unrest. We all felt the pull of prayer as we faced uncertain situations and the comfort the Spirit brought as we prayed, cried out to Him. Juan Carlos and family are in their completed home now - a more secure refuge, but they are mostly mindful that the God of the universe saw their need, touched the heart of one of His own, and reminded them that "His eye is on the sparrow, And I know He watches me."



Buddies Trent and Ramon (the Maestro) - The unity of the Body was unhindered by height, language, or age differences.



Happy Independence Day! As you picnic with family and friends, or spend the day at the lake, or swat mosquitoes while you watch some nighttime fireworks, remember that our freedoms cost many the ultimate price. We don't take our political freedom for granted, nor dare we forget that our freedom from sin's grip was gained by a greater cost - the blood of Christ, a lamb without blemish or defect.

UPDATE ON PROTESTS AND PRAYER:

Since April 18, 2018 the country of Nicaragua has been under siege. University students peacefully protesting social security changes were suddenly attacked with deadly force by government led police and militia who fired tear gas, rubber pellets, and then, actual bullets into the crowds killing more than 50 student protesters. This ignited a near civil war situation as mostly unarmed protesters have set up roadblocks to get the government's attention and provide protection from rogue police, paramilitary, and hired hoodlum forces who enter the neighborhoods to do all sorts of violence and destruction. The violence, danger and roadblocks have paralyzed the country and led to critical shortages, loss of jobs, closing of businesses and schools, burned and looted neighborhoods, and an exodus of educated young people fleeing for their lives and futures. It's hard to believe that we had peaceful sweet times of connection and refreshing at the Pastor's Retreat. Everything's changed. Streets will have to be rebuilt, burned businesses and markets will have to be torn down and started over. Forgiveness and trust will have to be taught and given.



So what do we do now? What can we do? PRAY - For peace to come and righteous rulers to govern the nation. -For protection from governmental retaliation. -For release for those imprisoned falsely and those kidnapped. -For the Church to preach the Gospel with boldness and compassion. -For God's Spirit to move in mighty ways verifying the Gospel preached. -For a rebuilding of the nation without the cancer of corruption at its roots. -For Isaiah 58 fasting to occur. -For us to know God's direction for our time of exile from the country. **GIVE** - Do without something for a week or a month and give



that amount for relief supplies. We have trustworthy connections who can do much if they have the resources. They take food and medicines where they are needed and help with basic necessities. **PREPARE** - Get your passport. Be ready to serve. This door will be opened again and we need to be ready to get back to the work God has prepared in advance for us to do.

CREDITS TO YOUR ACCOUNT PAUL'S NOTE TO THE PHILIPPIANS

For the past year, we've had the joy of many opportunities to serve and be generous with emergency needs that have come up in our places of ministry. Much of that has come from generous designated offerings (sent out in their entirety), but a lot has gone out from the general fund of RBW - from the small surplus that we usually keep for emergencies. Quick end of story - emergencies came and surplus left. Being the channel of blessing is a sweet role to play, but we need to let you know that the channel itself is in a bit of need. We've faced a severe shortage in general giving which has led to bare bones operations and cut or missed salaries. Circumstances and hardships don't direct the course of ministry. Obedience does. But circumstances can be indicators of God's direction. Pray with us for discernment - and for supply. And if you're led to give - praise His name.

#Nicaragua crisis in numbers:
285 dead. 1,500 injured. 156
disappeared. 72 detained
(currently). 201 liberated! 4
people killed /day. "This is just
a preliminary report. We wish
it were the final report. That
will come when social peace
returns to Nicaragua."- Alvaro
Leiva, ANPDH



With love for Jesus and you, Enrique and Carol Acosta, Managers of RBW Missions

405 Robbins Ave SW · Willmar MN 56201

Web: rbwmissions.com · email carol@rbwmissions.com