

# Amigos for Christ

May 2002

## ***My Mission Trip***

### **Mary Mastrogiovanni**

Buford GA

I was one of the 53 travelers to Nicaragua recently with Amigos for Christ. I had vowed never to fly again and felt that I could serve our organization better by contributing time and money at home. So, why was I on that plane to Managua? I wasn't quite sure! Now, as I reflect on the prismatic sights and sounds that were my trip, I realize they were lessons in my adult education. I learned that a group of virtual strangers can unite and spread American good will to a remote village in a third world country. We immersed ourselves into a primitive fabric of life that beckoned to the nineteenth century. Our Nicaraguan hosts at Betania, Father Marco's educational complex in Chinandega, kept us comfortable and fed. Our dormitory rooms afforded us interaction in close quarters, as we lived out of a suitcase for a week. We boarded a bus each day to parts unknown, passing miles of modest habitats amid the swirling dust that forever sweeps the ground there. We went forth among the masses. Beautiful bronze children everywhere! We played, sang and hugged these little strangers. Some became friends. Eleven-year-old Jose Ramon helped us dig latrine ditches and deliver water to our thirsty crews. Our nurses, translators and well engineers dutifully served our new friends and rounded out the grunt workers like me. Our youth missionaries brought freshness and exuberance to each day. Each eloquently summed up their experiences and expressed their faith in front of our group the last evening at Betania. My son Nick, about to embark on his own as a college graduate, was among those young people. I suppose middle age makes you maudlin. Looking back on that week, a closing thought comes to mind: We more prosperous of mankind possess the capacity to serve those less fortunate, and in turn, to nourish a part of ourselves that has long been deprived.

## **Why are we sending you a newsletter?**

We would like to keep you informed about what's happening with Amigos for Christ. This quarterly newsletter is by and for you. Please give us your comments or suggestions!

## **Recent Good News**

- ✓ St. Martin de Porres Surgical Hospital construction completed.
- ✓ School, Cafeteria, Health Center, Sewing Vocational Center completed at Santa Matilde.
- ✓ New Kitchen, Warehouse, and Cafeteria completed at school at El Higueral.
- ✓ New warehouse for water well materials completed at Betania.
- ✓ New Church completed at Miguel Cristiano.
- ✓ New LS-200 Drill Rig purchased and shipped.
- ✓ Two successful water wells drilled at Haldo Dubon.
- ✓ Latrine Project completed at Santa Matilde.

## **Upcoming Events**

- |                                     |                                  |
|-------------------------------------|----------------------------------|
| <b><u>June 1 – 9, 2002</u></b>      | Mission Trip                     |
| <b><u>June 23, 2002</u></b>         | Pedal for the Poor Fundraiser    |
| <b><u>July 27 – Aug 4, 2002</u></b> | Mission Trip                     |
| <b><u>October 2002</u></b>          | Boy's Choir in Atlanta and N.O.  |
| <b><u>October 11, 2002</u></b>      | Fox Theater (Atlanta) Fundraiser |
| <b><u>October 24, 2002</u></b>      | New Orleans Gala Fundraiser      |

## **WE NEED YOUR HELP!**

- Pray for guidance for our ministry
- Volunteer to help with one of our fundraisers
- Joins us on a Mission Trip
- Help us raise \$2500 to drill a community water well

We are God's hands here on earth. We welcome your help and encourage you to participate. Your life will be changed! Please contact us anytime.

Phone: 770-614-9250

Email: [info@AmigosForChrist.org](mailto:info@AmigosForChrist.org)

## AGUA FOR NICARAGUA

### NEW DRILL RIG ARRIVES IN CHINANDEGA

Our Agua for Christ project hit full-steam in April. We were able to ship a new LS-200 drill rig along with materials for at least 7 new wells to Nicaragua. On our recent mission trip, our awesome water committee drilled 2 new wells that were brimming with abundant, clean water, and installed a new hand pump for a community of 2000 people. One new well will be used for drinking water and the other to provide water for the school micro-farm. The crops will be used to feed the students. We also trained two local Nicaraguans to operate the rig and continue the work year round.



This new hand pump at Santa Matilde provides clean water to 330 families. Children like these depend on this water to drink, bathe, and cook. Our goal is to drill as many wells like this one...

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## Community Water Wells

*Drinking water, irrigation, top priority list*

Our good friend and Board Member, Dr. Jim Hamilton, warned us that until we were able to help provide clean water and better nutrition to the rural Nicaraguan communities, he would be treating the same problems year after year. We took him seriously and have started our Community Well Program. The program includes clean drinking water and a source for crop irrigation.

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*Clean water is the key to good health...*

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We are able to drill a well, case it, and install a hand or bicycle pump for \$2500. We encourage individuals or organizations to help us provide as many wells as we can in Nicaragua. It can mean the difference between life and death. We never again want to see what happened in the Village of San Francisco last year. A mother and young child died due to dehydration when they got sick from a contaminated source of water. We can prevent this and we humbly ask for your help.

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