

Amigos for Christ

Spring 2003

About Nicaragua

Its official name is the Republica de Nicaragua. It is situated in Central America, between Honduras and Costa Rica. Managua, its capital, has a population of over 1 million people. Nicaragua covers 50,446 square miles and is divided into 15 departments and 2 regions. Northern Nicaragua is mountainous, while the south and the Atlantic coast are lowlands. A series of impressive volcanoes dot the Pacific coast, like a strand of beads. Our humanitarian efforts are centered in the Chinandega and Leon departments, once an important cotton producing area. Today, much of the land is barren and unfit for cultivation. The heavy use of pesticides has contaminated the country's rivers. Nicaragua has also faced an economic crisis since the late 1970's. Hurricane Mitch further damaged its infrastructure, on October 30, 1998. During our mission trips, we have witnessed the gradual, yet remarkable transformation of the settlements aided by your donations. Water wells and new homes bring gardens and vegetation to families, along with a measure of independence and self-respect.

Great News!

Happenings in the last couple of months...

- 120 patients regained either all or part of their sight in the inaugural surgeries at the St. Martin de Porres hospital at Betania.
- Several children suffering from cleft palette or lip deformities were surgically repaired at the hospital.
- The Children's Feeding Center at Santa Matilde was completed and 377 children are now receiving a nutritious meal every school day.
- Four new water wells were successfully drilled at the Casa Jacinta y San Francisco orphanage farm in Leon. The wells will provide both drinking water and irrigation for a project to provide food for the children.
- A new school building was started at Santa Matilde where only half of the children are able to attend school due to lack of space.
- Construction began on the new children's music school at Betania. Our friends from the Getsemani Boy's Choir will be the first students.
- Our 2 spring break mission trips were awesome as 16 missionaries from Marist High School in Atlanta and 63 more from Prince of Peace in Buford, GA made a huge impact on the people of Nicaragua. The projects included the Children's Feeding Center construction, school construction, water well drilling, rural medical clinics, surgical hospital preparation and future project planning

Let us speak to your group or church about our work in Nicaragua. Call us at 770-614-9250 to set up a visit.

How YOU can HELP...

We recently opened our Children's Feeding Center at Santa Matilde. We are providing 1 meal for the 377 children who attend the school we built last year. For some of these children, it is their only meal of the day. The mothers of the kids cook and bring eggs from their chicken coops to add to the lunch. Our budget for the program is \$908/month. This comes to \$2.40/child for an entire month or 12 cents per day. Please use the attached envelope to help us keep this program running. It is our goal to break the cycle of poverty through education.

We receive so much when we see a program work the way it is designed. Please know your contributions will end up on these plates...



The Calendar

May 4, 2003

Pedal for the Poor Fundraiser

June 7 - June 15, 2003

Mission Trip - School Construction

June 21 - June 28, 2003

Mission Trip - Living Water Drill Team

July 1 - August 5, 2003

College Extended stay Mission Trip

July 12 - July 19, 2003

Mission Trip - Living Water Drill Team

July 15 - July 23, 2003

Mission Trip - Big Canoe Chapel

July 15 - August 5, 2003

High School Extended stay Mission Trip

July 26 - August 3, 2003

High School Extended stay Mission Trip

August 9 - August 16, 2003

Mission Trip - Living Water Drill Team

August, 2003 - Exact Date DBT

Surgical Team Mission Trip

October 24, 2003

Amigos for Niños Fiesta - Fox Theatre, Atlanta, GA

Please call us at 770-614-9250 for more info.

St. Martin de Porres Surgical Hospital

God has blessed the people of Nicaragua with several miracles. A relative of one of the boys in the choir came to the hospital in March not having seen for the past 7 years. She left with her sight. God not only blessed her but the doctors that performed this surgery. Over 120 patients had their sight either partially or fully restored. Several children with extreme deformities on their mouths were blessed with reconstruction. For some, it allows them to eat normal food for the first time in their lives. God is good, and He has provided a hospital and great surgeons to change lives!



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