

## Nicaragua Updates from Beth Sellers

### Nicaragua update #1

July 11, 2010

Dear friends and church family,

Thank you for your prayers while I'm serving as a short term missionary here in Nicaragua. I arrived safely at the mission house on Friday afternoon and spent the first day and a half preparing for the team to arrive. The team from Arkansas came in yesterday afternoon and the team from Georgia and Virginia (including Ralph, Connie, and Seth Kiser) arrived around 11PM. Today was the first full day for the team and we kept them very busy. We started the day by splitting into four groups to attend and assist with four different church services. Folks from our team shared testimonies, performed special music, and preached the message in the town of Posoltega where we'll be holding the crusade later in the week. After church, several of the ladies helped me organize the pile of 'stuff' here at the mission house including children's items, gifts for the women's conference, clothing for the clothing distribution project, and other assorted donations. With individuals from 4 states and 7 different churches, we had a huge and very disorganized pile of 'stuff'! We even found an entire suitcase of donated prescription glasses, so I'm thinking Ken Miller needs to come down here sometime in the near future. ☺ This evening, we returned to Posoltega to participate in church services at four different churches after visiting a very poor neighborhood where we'll be feeding the people tomorrow.

The rest of this week will include fiestas and street evangelism every morning, along with a youth conference on Tuesday, a women's conference on Wednesday, and a Pastors/Leaders conference on Thursday. Different members from our group are speaking on the radio each day this week and we'll have our big crusade Tuesday- Thursday.

Flexibility is always important when I come to Nicaragua, and I've already had to throw out most of my plans and preconceptions for this week (and the rest of the month as well). My role in this team and the next three teams is different than what I had planned, but I know that God has a better plan than anything that I could imagine. I also learned that I will not have the second week off like I had expected, so I won't be able to stay with the Speigles. Instead, I'll be leading a team of young interns from Arkansas as we work with a needy community called El Sepote (the same poor neighborhood we visited today). However, I did get a chance to see John, Vanessa, and the kids on Friday afternoon and I'm sure I'll get to see them a few more times while I'm here.

I will try to send an update every three or four days. I appreciate the prayers and support from all of you.

Dios le bendigan,

Beth

## Nicaragua Update #2

July 16, 2010

Dear church family,

Yesterday was the last working day for the current mission team here in Nicaragua. We had a great week full of opportunities to share the gospel. We did fiestas and street evangelism every morning this week along with 3 conferences for women, pastors, and youth. On Tuesday through Thursday we had a crusade in Posotega. The community had been preparing for us for months and we had a great crusade. The first night we worked through a rain storm, but after that the weather held out. We had over a thousand people there the last two nights. I shared my testimony on stage last night and several other people from the team did the same over the course of the week.

Today most of the team is traveling over Nicaragua to see the sights, but those of us who have already seen those sights stayed behind to rest at the beach house and go out for a nice lunch in town. This team will leave tomorrow morning, but we have another small group coming in tonight. There are three teenage girls from Arkansas coming to work as interns this week. I'll be leading them as they conduct 2 different 2 day vacation Bible schools, attend church services, and distribute food, hygiene kits, and clothing to a needy area.

We will spend a lot of time in El Sepote next week, which is the neighborhood I mentioned in my last update. The home church of our 3 interns raised \$5,000 to install a well in the community because the people are living without a reliable source of water. The community members dug a 30 meter hole by hand and we were prepared to install all the equipment next week using the money that the church raised. But when we went out to visit last Monday, the engineer came with us and discovered that there is no water in the well that they dug. So as it turns out it will take an additional \$2,000 to bring out a drill and drill down another 30 meters. So we took up a love offering and raised \$1,380. We still need another \$600, so if anyone feels called to donate towards that cause please e-mail me and send your check to Voice of Hope Ministries.

I will keep in touch.

Thanks for your prayers!

-Beth

## Nicaragua Update #3

July 27, 2010

Dear Church Family,

I realize that it has been 10 days since my last update, and for that I apologize! Things have been so busy here that I haven't had time to sit down with my computer. I only had time tonight because one of our interns wasn't feeling well and the two of us decided to stay here at the house while the rest of the team went back to La Paz Centro for the first night of the Crusade.

The team that is here with us in Nicaragua this week is Pastor Paul White's church from Jacksonville, FL. Paul, Rachel, Abbi, and Grant are here with 18 other people from Faithbridge Baptist Church. We are working in a town called La Paz Centro, which is about an hour from the mission house. Every morning we drive to La Paz and hold 2 or 3 fiestas in the streets, a conference for a specific population (youth today, women tomorrow, pastors on Thursday), and a small group

speaks on the radio. Yesterday we also did a feeding at the dump in La Paz and tomorrow some of us will visit the hospital there as well. Then, in the afternoons, we return here to the house for lunch and a chance to change clothes before driving back to La Paz Centro for the evening crusade. The days are long but we accomplish so much!

La Paz Centro is also the community where John and Vanessa are spending much of their time. We passed them yesterday as they were doing a sports camp in the town square. They are doing well, and their kids are learning and growing. 😊

To update you on the well project in El Zapote (or El Sepote – nobody really knows how to spell it)... We have raised the entire \$2,000 for the drilling of the well and now we are just waiting on the weather to cooperate long enough for the drilling to start. We have had torrential downpours almost every day since I arrived here 3 weeks ago. If we can get a dry day later this week, they will begin the drilling. Once that is done, the whole project can be completed in 2 or 3 days. We spent 3 days in El Zapote last week – doing VBS, feeding the people, and giving out clothing and supplies. We see the need that they have for a well with clean drinking water, and we are praying that we'll see this project completed before we leave on August 7<sup>th</sup>.

Please keep praying for our time here in Nicaragua. Pray for the team from Jacksonville as they reach out to the community of La Paz Centro. Pray also for the team from Arkansas that will be arriving on Saturday when the Florida team leaves. Please pray for the health of all team members (we have had several people get sick in the past few days, but nothing major) and for rest and energy. Our days are long and there are 30 of us sleeping together in one house, so nights are short (11 women share the bathroom in my bedroom, so showers begin at 4:00AM). And please pray also for protection from mosquitoes. Even though we are constantly coated in a layer of deet, the bugs are eating us alive.

I hope everyone is doing well in Harrisonburg. I pray for you often and appreciate your support while I'm away.

Peace and Grace,

Beth

## **Nicaragua Update #4**

August 3, 2010

Dear Church Family,

I write this update with mixed feelings as this is my last week here in Nicaragua. I feel like I have been here far longer than a month and I don't particularly want to leave. But I'm also looking forward to returning home to see what God has in store for me with the new school year.

This final week in Nicaragua is turning out to be another busy week. We have a team from El Dorado, Arkansas working with us this week. The team is mostly teenagers and none of them have ever been to Nicaragua before. We are doing fiestas every morning and church services every evening. This morning I had to stay behind at the house to watch over one of the adult team members who is sick. I have plenty of work to do here at the house, but my heart is out on the streets with the team at the fiestas. I'll have two more days of fiestas before the team leaves on Friday. Then Mary, Vickie, and I will spend Friday packing up and closing down the mission house since there won't be another team for several months. The three of us will travel to Managua on Friday evening and then fly out at various times on Saturday morning.

The well project in El Zapote is finally coming along. They finished drilling on Sunday and reported back that they found plenty of water. They are still working on installing the pump and connecting all the parts, but the community should have running water by the end of the week!

I hope to see everyone on Sunday morning at church. It's strange to think that I'll be attending church in Harrisonburg this coming weekend.

Love in Christ,

Beth