

Memo

To: Kevin Minchey, Concord Baptist Association
From: Larry Beard, Trip Leader
CC: Kenneth Summey, Pastor
Date: July 7, 2014
Re: Nicaragua Mission Trip Report

Ten members (six men and four women) of Lascassas Baptist Church recently traveled to El Rama, Nicaragua for the purpose of participation in a mission endeavor toward which God had led us. The team members were: Kenneth Summey, Gordon Carlisle, Bobby Patterson, Janis Patterson, Joyce Niles, Ava Donnell, Patricia Curtis, Gary Lewis, Barry Smith, and Larry Beard. Inclusive dates for the trip were June 29-July 5, 2014. The church fully supported this work with prayer, donation of six large suitcases of school supplies for distribution by the team, and \$2,600.00 toward the costs associated with the trip. This was our first time to minister in this general area of Nicaragua, although three members of the team have had previous experience in Nicaragua.

Our work was organized and coordinated by Way of the Cross Ministries, an interdenominational missions organization based in Harlingen, Texas. WOTC has been involved in God-honoring, evangelical ministry in Texas, Mexico, Nicaragua, and West Africa since 1988. I have been involved personally with their work since 1996 and have found them to be faithful in the work to which God has called them and to their purpose statement, "Preaching the Gospel, and training up others to do the same". Their web site can be found at wotc.org.

Upon our arrival in Managua late Sunday evening, we connected with WOTC staff who escorted us to Granada and our quarters for the night. The following morning we toured the new WOTC Camp currently under construction, enjoyed an inspiring worship and preaching service in the still uncompleted church building, and then traveled by van some seven hours thru beautiful mountain scenery to the city of El Rama, our ministry base for the planned three day ministry effort. We were housed in a local hotel there in this city that is sited at the confluence of three major rivers, the Siquia, the Rama, and the Escondido. These three rivers drain a large area of south-central Nicaragua with the Escondido ultimately emptying at the city of Bluefields, on the Caribbean side of Nicaragua.

We began our work on Tuesday, July 1 by meeting for a joint church service with our Nicaraguan team members at Life Abundant Central Evangelistic Assembly, where we enjoyed worship led by both US and Nicaraguan worship leaders, preaching, and prayer for

the day's Kingdom work. (This procedure was repeated each morning of the two other days of ministry.) Upon completion of the service we carried rice and the school supplies we had brought with us to the river wharf where our boats awaited. We had two teams, each consisting of a combination of Americanos, Nicaraguan church members, and WOTC interpreters. Brother Ricardo, pastor of the local church and coordinator with the river villages, journeyed with us each day. Our job was to travel to selected villages sited on the rivers, fellowship with the villagers, share the Gospel with both school children and the village adults, present our gifts to the school children and teachers, and provide rice mix to all of the village residents who were present. We also distributed 200 Spanish New Testaments that were provided by the Gideons International thru one of our church members.

Our first trip was down the Rio Escondido to a village located about three hours from El Rama. Upon arrival we were warmly received by the village residents. The children were especially excited to see us and we were told that we were the first Americanos to visit their village (This was the case for two of the three villages we visited...). Following welcome speeches and student entertainment at the school, fun music and games, brief testimonies by our team members, and a puppet show developed and presented by the ladies of our team, the Gospel message was shared using the "EvangeCube" evangelism tool. One of our team verbalized the cube message through a translator while the other team members assisted by showing the cube pictures to the students.

On the following two days we traveled upstream on the Rio Rama some two hours and three hours respectively and followed a similar process, each time using the EvangeCube to present the Gospel. As a result of these presentations, God drew some 200 + of the students and adults of the villages to signify their desire to profess Christ as Savior. Those who indicated a desire to receive Christ were led to repeat a prayer of repentance and faith and encouraged to study the Bible, pray daily, and fellowship with other believers.

Altogether, our team members were directly or indirectly involved in sharing the Gospel message with 800+ Nicaraguans, many of whom indicated that they had professed Christ as Savior. Certainly seeds were planted in the hearts of many of the others. Access to evangelize in the school systems, authorized and encouraged by the country's president, is a phenomenal blessing and miracle of God. WOTC had recorded over 8,000 professions of faith in their evangelistic efforts overall by the end of the week we were on the field. Praise God!

On behalf of Lascassas Baptist Church and our team of missionaries, I want to thank the Concord Association for your generous financial contribution to our mission trip in Nicaragua. Your assistance was invaluable in helping us to achieve God's purposes in our lives and in the life of LBC. May He receive glory and honor for who He is and for His work among and through the churches of our association.