

Sharing
God's Grace
with the **WORLD**

Serving in
Nicaragua



Lily Ortega

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Serving through **GRACE MINSTRIES INTERNATIONAL**

ABOVE Me at Fredrik Meijer Garden in Grand Rapids, Michigan

Hello my brothers and sisters in Christ!!!

It is such a joy for me to share my blessings with you all. I hope you had a wonderful Christmas and a happy new year.

COUNTLESS BLESSINGS IN THE STATES

My visit to the United States has been one of those experiences that I never imagined to have. Things like this can only be lived in Christ. God has been so good to me, I am very grateful that God has given me the opportunity to live and enjoy His blessings among the churches in the States.

Being in the States and experiencing my first mission conferences was a great blessing for me. I felt so loved and appreciated by every church I visited and every family and person I spent time with. God has gifted you with the kind of love that we all need to show every day to the people around us. Continue to be a testimony of the love of God in that way!

One of the questions I was asked after I was done with all my church visits was, which church was your favorite? My answer was "all." Each church was special for me because I was able to see the body of Christ glorifying God all together in many ways, from the moment I entered the church to see the people who welcomed us with a big smile who were very attentive to our lives and needs, people willing to host us, to taking us out for lunch or dinner, the amazing food and desserts, I loved it! I heard many times "we are praying for you." That means a lot to me, and it fills my heart with encouragement, joy and peace, because I know that I am not alone on this journey.

There were also fun things that I experienced for the first time, like seeing snow, driving in snow, snow storms, and experiencing temperatures below 0° C. That was very cold! I saw deer, elk, and starfish. I went to a zoo (to see animals that we don't have in South or Central America), to a big garden park (it may be spring inside but as soon as you get out of there you can feel the cold) I went to a hockey game, and I really enjoyed it! I also went to a basketball game, a concert, which was amazing (King & Country), and ice skating! It was interesting to see/experience the transition from autumn to winter (watch the snow fall)!

I also enjoyed different holidays like Halloween, Thanksgiving and Christmas, and on top of that, my birthday. I also have seen so many beautiful places in different states. I could



TOP A present from Berean Bible Church, Shoreline, WA

BOTTOM Experiencing the Redwoods



TOP Me with Judy Pacheco

MIDDLE Ice cream with Sarah & Molly from Grace Bible Church, West Allis, Wisconsin

BOTTOM A visit to Lake Michigan with Frosty & Cathy Hansen in West Michigan

not think of anything else than how great is our God and how small I am next to all His creation, but despite that, I am the most important creation of Him and He cares for me.

To you who are reading this, thank you very much for making my first experience in the States something that I will always remember. I really appreciate you being patient with my English, because even though it didn't seem like it, it was a real struggle for me. I appreciated your kindness and support in that way. Also, thank you for walking with me in my time with the Lord in Nicaragua.

CONTINUING TO LIVE BY GOD'S FAITHFULNESS IN NAGAROTE

I am starting my fourth year in Nicaragua! After a long time, it took me a bit to get back into my routine. I know that I could not achieve this without your prayers and without seeking God's guidance for everything I had to do. God has been merciful to me.

I am very excited about what God has in store for me this year. I am happy to be back, and I am looking forward to continuing to share the love of God with those I am discipling, equipping our people for the ministry and leading new people to the Lord through my guitar lessons and to continue serving/teaching in different ministries.

This year has just begun and I have already started teaching guitar to some girls from our church. At the end of February, I will hand out invitations to the school for my next guitar classes. I thank God that we can do that at the school here in Nagarote. Also, I have a new mentee with whom I can spend time in the Bible, praise God! It's been great catching up with some of our youth again.

The years go by very quickly and I have seen the faithfulness of God all my time here. I arrived in Nicaragua two months before Covid hit the world and God has guarded my heart and my life all this time. He has provided not only the people but also the money and all the resources I needed for my ministries. He has given me strength to face difficult situations to get to know Him better, and wisdom to continue walking in His will. All this time it was all about Him and I want to continue to glorify Him with my life, talents, heart and mind. Thank you because you have been and are an important piece in this ministry.

I will really appreciate if you would keep in prayer my life and ministries:

- God's guidance and creativity, as I start my discipleship, my guitar classes and leading the worship band.
- Pray for each person being trained at the Bible Institute. God can prepare their heart and life for ministry so that when God calls them, they can be ready to serve Him.
- Pray that God may continue to provide new people to disciple. May God bless the time I will have with them and with my future guitar students.
- May God bless my long-term future plans for the ministry, I want to have a heart to fulfill only His will. Pray for the team I want to put together to go to Matagalpa (three hours from Nagarote). May God lead me to the right people.



TOP Missionary families

BOTTOM Some of the youth in Nagarote



Remember the doors are always open in Arrigados-Nagarote for you to come at any time. You all are in my heart and prayers. Let's give glory to God always!!!

Your sister in Christ,

Lily



Praise be to the name of God

for ever and ever;

WISDOM and **POWER** are **HIS**. He changes times and seasons; he deposes kings and raises up others *He gives wisdom to the wise and knowledge to the discerning*. He reveals deep and hidden things; he knows what lies in darkness, and light dwells with him.

Daniel 2:20–22