

# Nicaragua

September 2023

## Aaron and Adela Cordero

### Hi beloved Brothers and Sisters,

Adela and I send you greetings from Nagarote, Nicaragua. It's been so hot here recently that we wondered if we might bump into Shadrach, Meshac, and Abednego outside. If an escape from cold weather appeals to you, we will receive you with open arms. Or, maybe we could share some of the heat with you. Besides the warm weather, we also want to share some of the ways we witness the Lord at work through our partnership together here in Nicaragua.

### Our Experience .....➤

Adela and I love that in Nagarote (which is different from the cultures where we are from - Honduras and Costa Rica) people enjoy sitting outside of their houses in plastic chairs visiting with family and friends. People walk in the streets without worries that someone might approach them with bad intentions. A treasured tradition that the people of Nagarote practice is called a Vela (Candle). When someone passes away in Nagarote, a car with a loudspeaker travels throughout the city announcing the death of that person. The announcement shares facts about the person's life and the names and addresses of the family. Through this, they invite the people of the city to come alongside the family during this hard time. That evening the people from the city will gather together to share coffee and bread in the street, seated together with the family. Lots of people come to this event and often crowd the streets. A Vela sometimes lasts all night with the funeral being the following day. Recently, I attended three different Velas of our neighbors and friends to support them during these difficult times. Adela cannot attend the Velas or funerals because the people of Nicaragua believe pregnant women should not attend those events.

### Ministry .....➤

Every other Friday, Adela and I, along with some of the youth, go out to personally deliver invitations to the older adults of our community. We remind them to be ready at 9:30 Saturday morning for us to pick them up for our Senior adult ministry, Conociendole (Knowing Him). Sometimes when we pass out invitations, we visit them in their homes. One of the people with whom we recently visited is Violeta. Violeta is 70 years old and recently lost her husband. Violeta works hard as a business owner selling corn tamales from her house. She has not been able to come to Conociendole because of the grief she has experienced due to her loss. We want our seniors to know that we find it very important for us to not only invest in them for the ministry but also want to be part of their lives as well (1 Thes. 2:8).

Violeta



Three years ago, we began the self-sustaining garden project with the goal of producing income to help with the expenses of the church (there is a link to the video below). At this moment, the project is not yet self-sustaining. Sometimes we find the work tiring because we do not see the results we hope for. However, the garden creates a job for Pedro, one of the youth of the church. Pedro is an answer to prayer because we have prayed for someone who would take charge of the garden and manage it well. We notice a lot of potential in him as a future leader because of his servant's heart. Pedro also serves with us in the ministry of Conociendole.

#### Discipleship Thursdays



Every Thursday, we invite the youth from the church (ages fifteen to twenty-five) to share a meal and message from the Bible. We want to share with you about one of the boys named Julio. Julio lost his mom at a young age and lives alone with his father. He works hard with his father on a cow farm. Along with that, they operate a small store in their house. We thank the Lord for him because we noticed his desire to learn and participate during our discipleship time. Much to our surprise, this spiritual growth resulted in him recently enrolling in the Bible Institute class offered at the church.

Julio



## Challenges .....>

This week we had the chance to see our daughter Elena's face on an ultrasound. We were nervous because two months ago, we were told that the umbilical cord was wrapped around her neck and that her weight was not as it should be. We were worried because we thought that something bad was happening. On September 12 we visited the gynecologist and received good news. Our daughter is very healthy and she no longer has the umbilical cord around her neck. Along with that, she has grown and is now at an adequate weight and size for her stage of development. We anticipate the birth of our beautiful baby girl, Elena at the end of October. Along with that, we look forward to the birth of my sister Raquel and her husband Milo's baby, Teofilo, sometime in December.

Baby Elena



Don Harold



We were sad because, on August 20th, we lost one of our close friends from the Senior Adult Ministry, Harold. Harold was one of the founders of the church and also of Conociendole. He was always willing to meet new people and was available to serve wherever needed. He was a very noble man, always willing to help his neighbors. We thank the Lord that during his final days, we were able to accompany him, sing and pray with him, and encourage him in the Word of God. We find this to be one of the major challenges in our senior adult ministry, to say good-bye to people we're close to here on this earth. We know and look forward to one day seeing them again in eternity.

Throughout our time here in Nicaragua, we have had the opportunity to meet with lots of spiritually hungry people. We pray that the people we encounter will desire to seek Him and get to know Him more, and they will know that Christ is the only one who can truly fulfill us. As we near the end of September, we will begin to prepare for a youth camp that will take place in December.

## Thank you .....>

Thank you so much for your support. As a team and with your partnership, we have been able to reach many people for Christ. We have already seen answers to prayer here in Nagarote as there have been many young people wanting to know Christ. Linked below you will find videos of our self-sustaining project and a quick message from us. If you are ever in need of prayer, please email your requests. We would love to pray for you and lift you up as we continue to prepare for the arrival of our little one.

**Aaron & Adela**

### Prayer and Praise

- We thank the Lord that Elena is healthy and is now in a good range for weight and size. We also praise Him that the umbilical cord is no longer around her neck.
- We thank the Lord because He teaches us how to be good stewards of each of the ministries He places in our hands, specifically in the senior adult ministry Conociendole.
- Please join us in praying that the Lord will provide someone who would care for the medical needs of members of the senior adult ministry.
- Pray that the Lord would provide financial support for the senior adult ministry including medicine, diapers, food, wheelchairs, canes, etc.
- Pray that two more young people would enroll in the Bible Institute.

### Goals and Visions

- For the young leaders of the church to 'own' the ministries and that they would take charge and invest in others.
- To continue investing in young leaders who would dare to intentionally serve others.
- To find local leaders to lead Conociendole.
- To develop activities that would generate financial income for the members of Conociendole.

### Self-sustaining project:

<https://www.veed.io/view/f6893c9f-e64a-45d8-88ef-02ee15e262bd?panel=share>

### Video from us:

<https://www.veed.io/view/cec0f745-b09f-44c6-8ee7-2c65d72edb71?panel=share>

### Contact us:

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