



...by *Faith* ...not by sight



July 2021

How am I doing?

My last six months have been quite busy and I am a little tired, but doing well, happy, and blessed. I keep thinking that it was God's perfect plan to send me to Nicaragua.

I am tired because there is always something to do. When Milo and Raquel were in the USA, I was extra busy with the ministries in general, plus my own, trying to have everything in order in Arraigados. Then we were planning for Kids' Games.

A few months prior to this I tested positive for COVID. I did not present with very strong symptoms, but it all started with a severe stomach pain. They also found H.pylori bacteria in my stomach, but praise God all the treatment I did for COVID and the bacteria was good. Now my health is great! No virus, no bacteria.

Good news!!! I got my Nicaraguan ID!!! It was such a happy moment when I finally had it in my hand. It is a great blessing for me to finish the half year with a great news like this.

Emotionally I'm doing fine and happy. I think now I can say that I have adjusted to the people, culture, and food. It is enough to live and understand the people and their way of thinking. I'm proud of myself because I can take the bus to the main city, Managua, travel around by bus and not get lost, and now I know the city quite well. That is a big blessing for me!

Now it is a big challenge for me to learn how to drive. I'm taking the driving classes in Managua. If everything goes well, I'll have my license by the end of July. I'm kind of nervous because of that.

What does ministry life look like?

My guitar lessons are something that I really enjoyed this past half year. I gathered all of my former and current students and talked to them about the importance of sharing talents and gifts with someone else and how blessed we are when we do that. It was a nice time together.

Discipleship

It is a good time to build up friendships and to get to know people. Of the three ladies I'm meeting with, all have completely different personalities. That is interesting but sometimes challenging! Weeks ago I finished discipleship with one of them and soon we are going to start a new one. Also, soon I will start meeting with a new girl. I'm excited about that!

Kids' Games took place this week and it was a great experience for me! It was our first Kids' Games in Nicaragua. We as a church were praying so much for many things and we could see how God looked after us the whole week. We had approximately 200 kids and we thought we wouldn't be able to handle that many kids in Arraigados. The EXITE Team was a big help for all of us. They were a group very willing to serve, connect with the people, and

they were a very hospitable group to spend time with.

We are also very proud of the youth from our church. Every one of them was involved in something—choreography, drama, small groups, registration, or workshop. We know that God is at work in their lives and that they are growing in their relationship with the Lord. We really pray that one day one of them will take over Arraigados. Please pray for that, too. May God prepare a godly man and woman to teach the Word of God with all their hearts as the verse from Kids' Games says. Matthew 22:37-38—*Love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your mind. This is the first and greatest commandment.*

I was in charge of the children's registration part, badges for every kid and the welcome program for the whole week. On the last day



Kids' Games Training

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Kids' Games Training 2

I did the cultural connection, where I present my country Bolivia to the kids. That was fun!

It has been quite challenging for all of us since it was our first time doing a program like this. We were excited because it is an evangelistic program. Everyone who attended the program heard the gospel. Also we were excited because all the youth from the church got involved in this.

The construction part.

We have three projects right now—two of them, the well and the basketball court—are being worked on right now and will be completed in a few weeks. We will be so blessed with the well and it will be a big help for Arraigados because the bill will be less and we will be able to water the entire field during summer, which is when we need it most. Praise God for that!

What are the future plans?

During the next six months, I'm planning to start a new students group for the guitar classes. The course lasts four months or so. It is good that people here spread information about the classes by word of mouth. Usually I have 4 or 5 students per class. Lack of guitars will no longer be a problem. We are very blessed with the new guitars we have purchased. They are the Christmas gifts from last year. I'm so thankful for your support in this way!



Leadership in Arraigados



Kids singing during Sunday service

Something that excites me is that Mallory from the USA is coming to Nicaragua as an intern for six months. She will be living with me. I'm excited for what God has in store for her here— experiencing the Nicaraguan culture and ministry life in Arraigados. I pray we both grow together in our faith and enjoy the time living together.

In few weeks we are planning to start the lower part construction (photo above). We are going to do the compartments, windows, and furnish everything. We pray everything goes well with that!

I am going to continue my discipleship with the girls. I'm expecting to start with two more new girls.

In August, we are so happy that we are sending three people to Costa Rica for three months to be trained about missions and fully know about Jesus' ministry here on earth. We trust God He will use their lives in Arraigados to fulfill His will in Nicaragua.



Lunch with students from guitar class



Lower part of construction

At the end of this year I'm planning to visit my family back home in Bolivia. I'm so excited for that and to meet my new nephew, visit with friends and family, with the people from my church and with others as well after two years. I just want to enjoy everything about my country!

How can you pray for me?

- I'm glad God let me have my Nicaraguan ID already.
- For my driving classes. I'm kind of nervous about it. Pray God gives me wisdom for the test day.
- We were so excited about Kids' Games because it was going to be our first time and all the kids were going to hear the gospel. Pray they share the gospel with their parents.
- Pray God prepares the hearts of these two young ladies for the discipleship time with me. May God give me wisdom and creativity to enjoy the time with them.
- God provides all that we need for all the construction projects.
- Pray God will give us an excellent time with Mallory. We can know each other and grow in our faith.
- Continue praying for the institute and for all the students who are taking classes. Pray for strength and perseverance in this.
- Pray for the three young people who are going to Costa Rica to be trained. May God really touch, speak, move in their lives for missions.



Using the new guitars