



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



March 2020

My Dear Brothers and Sisters in Christ,

I am happy to write and let you know how the ministries in Nagarote, Nicaragua, are going since my arrival in late January. It fills my heart with so much joy to let you know my thoughts, feelings, and the joy I feel being in the place where God already knew I would be. From the moment He placed in my heart the desire to serve Him full time, there have been so many blessings that God has brought into my life, and I find that joy right here in this place.

One blessing is the people in Nicaragua. They often ask me in Nagarote, "What do you think of Nagarote?" and my response has always been, "I like it a lot, and I like it more because of the people who live here."

The first time I traveled to Nicaragua, it reminded me of where my parents came from and where I was born. Nagarote is more populated and has nicer houses, but the people are very similar. People usually get around by bicycle, motorcycle, taxi, or walking.

In Santa Cruz, Bolivia, where I am from, there is a slogan that says "Cruceño's law is the hospitality." The people of Nagarote live that out—they have a very simple, shy, kind, and hospitable heart. I see the

innocence and love of the children and It brings back memories from my childhood away from the city where all the children gather in the street to play.

Another blessing is to be working for God at Arraigados where the Word of God is sown and studied. Every adult, young person, or child who gathers at this place is challenged to be more like Jesus. At Arraigados the young people gather to share and study, as well as playing different types of sports, such as basketball, futsal, baseball, and volleyball.

It is a blessing for me to teach others to play the guitar. When I knew that God had given me the gift of being able to play the guitar, I didn't hesitate to put it to use for His glory. Two weeks after my arrival in Nicaragua, a girl named Cynthia asked me to teach her how to play the guitar. I never took lessons on how to play and that made me a little nervous, but I am preparing myself in the best way for God to be glorified in this. In turn, I also want to study the Bible with her, since she is a girl who is new to the gospel.

GMI missionary Raquel Seravalli has been a real blessing in my life. Seeing her serving with a passionate heart for God alongside her husband, Milo, really encourages me. When I met her many

years ago, I never thought that years later we would be serving together for the Lord. It is wonderful to see how God has been working in her life and also in mine like a puzzle where we are joining pieces so that we can be working together in this place right now. God continues to surprise His children with the plans He has already prepared beforehand.

Another blessing is that I have found a house here in Nicaragua. Sometimes waiting is not easy, but in the hands of God everything is worth it, and it is always the right thing, even the house we find. Glory to God for that! The house is a ten-minute walk from the church and five minutes by bike.

I am so grateful to the Lord for giving me this opportunity to be here and be part, not only of the ministries at Arraigados, but of this new country where I now live, new culture, and new routine. I am meeting new people and making new friends. Sometimes it is tiring, not only physically, but mentally and emotionally as well because adaptation is not simple. However, these adventures make me more dependent on God, and I enjoy it because they are His plans for me.

Arraigados will also be the place where God teaches me to continue persevering

Lilibeth Ortega

c/o GMI • PO Box 9405 • Grand Rapids, MI 49509



Corn on the cob



Guirila, white corn tortilla



Meat and beans

and being more like Jesus. I know that I still have much to learn and it is my prayer that in my heart the love of God reigns in everything, and that I have the wisdom to please him alone. I'm looking forward to the coming years God has planned for me here—it won't be easy but I trust that all will work for my good.

Praise and Prayer Items:

- Thank God for bringing me safely to Nicaragua and allowing me to be part of the ministries at Arraigados.
- Thank God I found a house. I am really enjoying this great blessing that God has given me.
- For the guitar lessons I am going to be giving, may God greatly use that time to work in Cynthia's life and that we always have a nice time between the two of us.
- Wisdom in order to know how to act and teach the Word of God well.
- For my residency procedures—may God take control of all the papers that must be submitted.
- Although I really enjoy being here, keep praying for my adaptation to the entire Nicaraguan culture.
- For the "new" young leaders of each ministry at Arraigados, since this year they were given more responsibilities in leadership. May God work in their hearts and help them to be faithful to their work.
- May God give us the necessary wisdom and use sports as a hook to talk about Jesus.

Thank you very much for being part of this great adventure with me and without a doubt with God. God bless your daily walk with Him.

With love, your sister in Christ,
Lily



Ministries at Arraigados



Ministries at Arraigados



Special day with young leaders



2.6 Group (from 1 John 2:6)