



Something Is “Gestating”!

As I write this letter our son Teofilo is just a few weeks away from being born after 34 weeks in “gestation”. During this time he has been in Raquel’s womb but we have not been able to see him. We have seen the changes in Raquel’s body and we have made the necessary adjustments in our diet. In preparation for his birth, we have read about his development and the birthing process and have gone to the doctor every month. We have also prepared our home and purchased the clothes and items needed for his arrival. But we still haven’t seen him. The reason we have not seen him is that he has been in “gestation”, which is defined as the process of formation or development over a period of time. Teofilo has been in the process of growing into a fully developed human life that has a divine purpose and immeasurable value. **It has been a long, difficult, continually changing process of growth over the past nine months that we trust will end with much rejoicing as we see him for the first time!**



I can also see the process of gestation in what is happening in our lives and ministry here in Nicaragua. Something is gestating in our maturity and after eleven years of marriage God is about to change our lives in terms of our love, service, patience, and suffering. **While we cannot know everything that lies ahead, we are confident that what God is about to do will mold us to be more like Christ.**

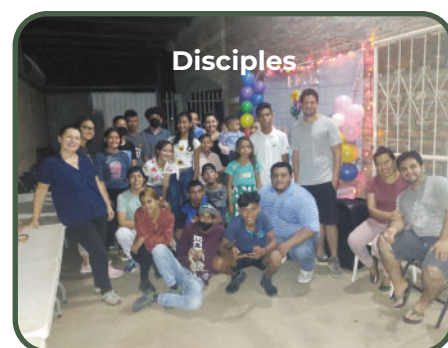
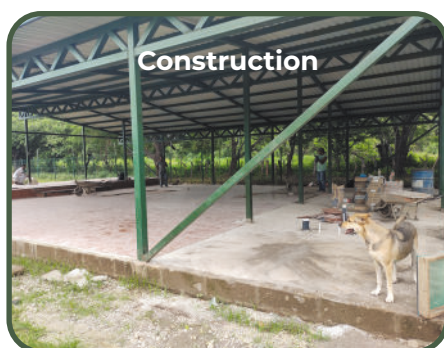
Something is also “gestating” in our local church in Nagorote! **After ten years of ministry, we have seen a slow but steady spiritual growth in the people of the church.**

After many disappointments along the way, we have also experienced much joy as leaders were developed in the church and growth took place on many levels. Lives have been transformed by the grace of God and a faithful group of believers has emerged with a mission and vision to spread the good news of Jesus Christ. **We have been blessed with a church that has grown spiritually, numerically, and in the scope of our facilities.**

Gestation is also taking place in the Carazo region of Nicaragua. The Lord placed a desire in our hearts to plant a new church in that region and we hope to move to the city of Jinotepe in March 2024 to begin ministry there. As we prepare to plant a new church we are thrilled to announce that the Lord is bringing growth to our Nicaragua missionary team! **We had been praying that the Lord would send another family to serve on our GMI team in Nicaragua and we are thankful that Jonathan and Brenda Tuttle have answered His call to become part of our team.** Lord willing, they will join us in Nicaragua in the second half of 2024!

Finally, I want to share with you my favorite part of gestation, which is the birth! While birth is typically a traumatic, tiring, and difficult event, it is the culmination of gestation and brings the reward of great “joy”! Birth brings the joy of being able to see the result of so much waiting and so much uncertainty. **As we await the birth of Teofilo, we rejoice that:**

- After eight years of trying to get pregnant, God has blessed us with a child in His time.
- We have been able to dedicate time to our marriage during our time serving here.
- God has provided for us during our ten years in Nicaragua.
- God has brought mature people like Anthony and Mercedes, who are passionate about knowing Christ and sharing Him with others, to be part of the ministry here.
- Eynerd and his family accepted the challenge to pastor the Nagarote church and the Lord provided other leaders to serve alongside him.
- Families are already beginning to commit to the mission and vision of the church.
- Hamilton and Sharon want to be part of the leadership of the church in Nagarote and are considering the possibility of going to another country to serve the Lord.
- The team of GMI missionaries in Nicaragua are working together and the Lord has supplied more missionaries to join in the work here.



And of course, the greatest joy in this process of gestation is the hope that we have that we will be with Christ for eternity! This is the joy that filled the men and women throughout the Bible who lived by faith, knowing that despite the difficulties we experience in this process of gestation here on earth, we look forward to the certainty that one day our transformation will be complete and we will see Him face to face.

“Dear friends, now we are children of God, and what we will be has not yet been made known. But we know that when Christ appears, we shall be like him, for we shall see him as he is.” 1 John 3:2

This is my greatest joy! Where are you finding joy today?

With love, His servants in Christ,

Milo and Raquel

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