

Seravallis in Nicaragua



June 2021

In John 17:20 Jesus prayed: "I am praying not only for these disciples but also for all who will ever believe in me through their message." This is our prayer for Nicaragua.

The first four months of the year we were away from Nicaragua visiting churches in the United States and Costa Rica. Meanwhile, our great prayer was for the leaders of Nagrarote in whom we have invested time and energy for the last seven years.

When we arrived back home to Nicaragua, it was good to see Marvin, Harold, Larry, Yilber, Maynor, Anthony, Mercedes, Rebecca, and Karlin - Nicaraguans we have been working with through discipleship, edification, and the Bible Institute to make them useful servants in the hands of God. They are not the only ones, but they are the ones who were left in charge of the ministry during our four months away.

The dream of our hearts is not only to establish a church associated with Grace Ministries International with a strong and lasting foundation in Christ, but one where the leaders become multipliers of the gospel, capable of teaching others what they have learned themselves.

When we returned to Nicaragua the first feelings we had were of discomfort and culture shock - high heat, a lot of noise, and plenty of dust, but there is something that keeps us here. It is the love we have for our family in the faith and our love for the Lord.

Our first week in Nicaragua we held a leaders' retreat to recharge their ministerial and personal vision and goals. There we also planned the ministry for the next four months. We have some good challenges ahead.

● **In the construction area:** we are building a water well to irrigate a self-sustaining project that Aarón Cordero, our GMI co-worker, is developing. We are also remodeling the sports field that we use for all ministries with children and youth. GMI missionary Lilibeth Ortega is in charge of this project. We are about to finish a bedroom that we use to host groups, but we also use it as a classroom - we are in charge of this project. Finally, we hope to begin building the church auditorium before the end of the year.

● **In the outreach area:** we will have our first Kids' Games in July, which is an activity to evangelize and reach out to about 200 children and their families. To achieve this, we will host the EXITE Team led by Don TenHoeve, the Director of Field Operations from the GMI Home Office. We will also have Justin McMaster and Mallory Walker from Grace



Kids' ministry



Leaders retreat





Grace Bible Institute



Seniors ministry



Watching "The Chosen" in our house

Christian University, two interns who will focus on evangelism through musical teaching and the English language, as well as serving the poor, widows, and orphans in the community. They will be accompanying us for a few months. With Aarón we will also visit Honduras in the month of July to start establishing a church there in two years.

● **In the training area:** During the month of August until October, four Nicaraguans will go to Costa Rica to be trained in discipleship and cross-cultural ministries (Maynor, Mercedes, Rebeca, and Valeska). It is quite a challenge because the cost of training is \$1,500 per person. Thank God many people are part of this dream by participating financially. Also, a team of leaders from Costa Rica created a Virtual Bible Institute that has just started operating which will train leaders throughout Latin America and we are part of it. Meanwhile, we continue with our Bible Institute in Nagarote with four classes taught by Milo, Raquel, Lilibeth Ortega, and Aarón Cordero, and we have 10 students.

As church planters, this all seems a bit overwhelming, especially since our goal is to leave a solid church in two years, plant another church in another area of Nicaragua, while Aarón raises a church in Honduras with the support of a Nicaraguan leader.

The good thing is that we feel very grateful that during our time in the United States we were able to recharge ourselves physically and spiritually. We are driven by all the support in prayer and contributions that we received from the family of faith in the United States.

As we studied an English language devotional this week, we smiled to see that English is not our language, but the author was speaking our language: our very vision, our method, our passion, our values, and that is what makes us one in Christ. This is how we are a body, the Church.

Today we pray for you who read this letter, the same as Jesus prayed in John 17: 14-23. May you receive His Word so that you may be full of joy, that you know that you do not

belong to the world, may God protect you from the evil one, may you be holy in His truth, for the people who will hear the message through you, may we be one for the world to believe that Christ was sent by God. This is the same prayer that we pray for the missionaries and leaders of Nicaragua.

If you want to be part of any of our construction projects please visit the "Projects" page on the GMI website: gracem.org.

If you want information on how to come to Nicaragua to serve for the short or medium term, contact us by email: raquelcordero21@gmail.com.

Please be part of this ministry by praying for Nicaragua: When you eat gallopinto (rice/beans) or a tortilla, pray for Milo and Raquel. Adding to that, please pray for wisdom, for our marriage, for our personal spiritual lives, and that God may use us for His glory in the way He wants, and that we may do it with a great attitude.

With the love of Christ,
Milo and Raquel Seravalli