



Greetings from Nicaragua,

This year marks the tenth anniversary of the first mission trip we took together to Nicaragua. Looking back over the past ten years, we are amazed at how God orchestrated everything in our lives and that we have now been serving as full-time missionaries here for two years. Woo!! Many thanks to all of you who have been on this journey with us for God's Glory!

Philip's interaction with the Ethiopian ruler in Acts 8 is similar to the ministry we are involved in here:

Acts 8:30-31 "Then Philip ran up to the chariot and heard the man reading Isaiah the prophet. 'Do you understand what you are reading?' Philip asked. 'How can I, he said, unless someone explains it to me?' So, he invited Philip to come up and sit with him".

Nearly every day, we sit with people who are wrestling with the significance of Jesus in their lives. In Nicaragua, people hear the word of God, but few really interact with it. Even fewer want to know how to put it into practice. One of the benefits of teaching from a mid-Acts Dispensational perspective is that it makes the "big picture" storyline of the Bible more visible. When we understand God's work in the past, present, and future, we see our place and purpose much clearer. As believers today, we are not free of responsibility or lacking in spiritual gifts, but are called to be spirit-led ambassadors of Christ.

Pastoral Program Completion - We are thankful that Jonathan recently completed the Pastoral Development Program through the Grace Gospel Fellowship (GGF) and passed his exams to become licensed as a pastor. In June, our family traveled to Colorado to attend the GGF Leadership Conference, where Jonathan completed the oral portion of his exams and received his credentials during a special presentation. The experience was challenging, but it was also an encouraging experience, leading to much growth. The oral testing involved showing mastery of both the theory and practical application of theology. Jonathan recommends this program to any elder or ministry leader who wants to take his calling more seriously. This program had a profound impact on him, and having pastoral credentials will benefit his ministry in Nicaragua, even though he never expected to become a licensed pastor.



Our 1st Mission Trip together to Nicaragua 10 years ago!



Receiving Pastoral License at GGF conference



First VBS in Santa Teresa Church

Fishers of Men - Since arriving in Nicaragua, we have focused on building relationships in the community. From Jesus' example, we see the impact of investing in relationships rather than just being program-driven. Investing in relationships is something Jonathan thoroughly enjoys, thanks to the example set by his dad while he was growing up. His dad can start a conversation with anyone, and while that sometimes felt awkward to him as a kid, he was always impressed. And when it led to a cool conversation, he would think to himself, "That's my dad!" Since being in Nicaragua, Jonathan has learned to be more direct in starting conversations, knowing the Nicaraguans are very open to them. He prays on his way out the door each day, not knowing who the Lord will bring across his path or who he will end up striking up a conversation with that day. Whenever it's possible, Jonathan rides his bike when he visits church members and the people we are discipling because it provides an opportunity to meet people that he wouldn't have met if he was whizzing around in our car.

Stockade - Stockade is a discipleship program for boys, and our current focus is on memorizing Scripture and the books of the Bible. We also do creative projects with the boys, including making battery-powered boats to race and a rechargeable fan. The kids get to explore new experiences that will help them be creative, think on their own, and discover their abilities. Each week we begin with the "Purpose Driven Life" study, which has been very productive in generating conversations and discovering truth.

Youth Group - Has really begun to feel like a family. We recently finished our series on the names of God. We look forward to having a retreat with the Santa Teresa Youth Group in January during their "summer" vacation.

Discipleship and Preaching - Over the past two years, I've had regular opportunities to preach, and God has grown my desire and confidence in teaching and preaching His Word. These past few weeks I have been working with the guys I meet with to prepare their testimonies in the form of a "life map." We have also been studying the role of an elder in the local church, so that we see it as a way of life and not just a title. While I meet with men, Brenda is enjoying meeting and studying with ladies who are in various phases of life.

Baby on the Way - After much prayerful thought and consideration, we decided it would be best for Brenda to have our baby in the United States due to her previous health complications during Emma's birth. God willing, once the baby has safely arrived, Brenda and the baby are cleared to travel, and the baby has a passport, we will return to Nicaragua around the end of the year.

Please Pray For:

- A safe delivery for our baby, who we anticipate arriving in mid-October!
- Continued spiritual growth in the men and women of the Santa Teresa Church.
- A growing desire within the church to serve Christ in their community.

Thank you for your support,



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Discipleship with Humberto



Boy's Stockade



Baby Boy due mid-October



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