



Jonathan & Brenda Tuttle

SERVING WITH GRACE MINISTRIES INTERNATIONAL

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“He will be great and will be called the Son of the Most High” Luke 1:32

We are thankful for **Jesus who is the only reason for Christmas!** Christmas has been an eye-opening experience for us this year, not just because we live in another country but also because our daughter is at an age where she is paying attention to the Christmas season. It is easy to see how the devil uses things to distract people from Christ. In the US, Santa Claus and presents are often the biggest distractions. Here in Nicaragua during the Christmas season, more honor is given to their local Saints and Mary than Jesus. Statues fill the streets here and Jesus is sadly cast aside. Whether in the US or here in Nicaragua, we have to ask ourselves what is distracting us from Jesus.

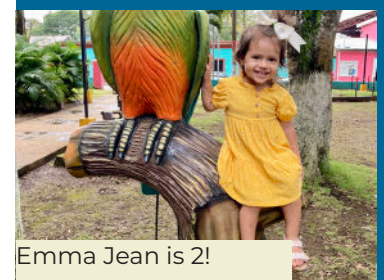
As I watched the popular Christmas movie “The Polar Express” with our daughter, it hit me hard that Santa had been given the honor due to Jesus. He is put on a pedestal and worshiped. Saint Nicholas must be pierced with sorrow as the sinfulness of man and the work of the devil have twisted his effort for good to be a complete replacement and diversionary tactic to turn people away from Christ. Pray that God will work through us as we have conversations and seek to understand the religious landscape and traditions surrounding Christmas here in Nicaragua. Pray that people will have open hearts to hear the truth of the Gospel. **Over the next several weeks we encourage you to slow down and pay attention to the opportunities the Lord gives you to share the reason He entered into this world.**

Over the past five months, we have settled in and familiarized ourselves with the community and culture of Nicaragua. Overall the people here have been friendly, especially in the town of Dolores where we live. We thank God for the people in our community who have helped us understand the culture, helped us be seen as trustworthy people, and introduced us to others.

Thanksgiving provided us with a unique opportunity to share the truth of God’s Word. Even though Thanksgiving as an official holiday doesn’t exist here, everyone here is familiar with it and has an opinion about it. We invited people from our block to a “Friendsgiving” as an opportunity to give thanks to God and experience the way gratitude affects our lives (“Praise the Lord, my soul, and forget not all his benefits” Ps. 103.2). Gathering with people from the community was also helpful in envisioning what a church here in Dolores may look like if that is the direction in which the Lord leads.



Preaching at Santa Teresa Church



Emma Jean is 2!



Sharing at Women’s Group in Nagarote



English Club at our Home in Dolores

When we arrived in Nicaragua, we were introduced to a pastor in the **nearby town of Santa Teresa** who had been praying for the Lord to provide someone to help in his church. Pastor Luis, who is battling cancer, asked Jonathan and our GMI coworker Emiliano Seravalli to step in for him when he is unable to preach due to his chemotherapy treatments. As we prayed and sought God's direction regarding this opportunity, the need for sound Biblical teaching, leadership development, and a thriving kids' ministry at this church became evident. Sensing the Lord's leading, we agreed to assist Pastor Luis with the church and Jon recently had the opportunity to preach through Ephesians, which helped him get better at preaching in Spanish. The well-attended Wednesday night bible study we do there has also been a great opportunity to get to know everyone on a deeper level and teach through the life of Jesus.

Almost every time **we walk around Dolores** we meet someone and make a new connection. One of the other primary ways we get to know people is through our English Club which meets in our garage every other week. English Club is a lot of fun and since the class structure is informal, we get to know people as they practice English and share conversations. People also enjoy coming over for dinner or coffee, and we pray that the conversations we have with them will point them to Jesus. Brenda has started discipling a neighbor, and they enjoy getting deep into God's Word. Emma also helps us engage with people through her friendly and welcoming spirit as she sparks opportunities to talk with people in the park or with other parents in our neighborhood.

Once a month we go to Nagarote to preach and visit the GMI-affiliated church there. We have also had some special opportunities to serve at the church including helping with "KidsGames", speaking at women's groups, and sharing God's Word with the seniors. This month we are looking forward to the annual youth camp where we have been invited to do the devotionals and be a part of the dramas. The theme of the camp is "Rescue", which is perfect timing to share how Jesus came to rescue the lost!

Looking ahead to 2025, we are excited to teach courses on "Religions of the World" and "Romans - Galatians" at the Bible Institute in Nagarote starting in January. Wouldn't it be great to have "growing in the grace and knowledge of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ" at the top of our list of goals for next year?

Merry Christmas! We invite you to rejoice with us as we proclaim the coming of our Savior, who is our hope, our joy, and our peace! We are thankful for the opportunity to serve God in Nicaragua and for all of the new, unique, learning experiences we are having as career missionaries. We are also super grateful for all of you! It's great to be on the same team! And we give thanks to God for our Emma Jean turning two on December 9th.

Please pray with us for the upcoming youth camp and for wisdom about where to focus our time, whether it should be in Dolores or Santa Teresa, or both. Pray also that the Lord will provide people that want to be discipled. And pray for the development of leaders in the Santa Teresa Church, the health of Pastor Luis, and for our residency process in Nicaragua.

Thank you for your support,

Jonathan, Brenda, and Emma Tuttle



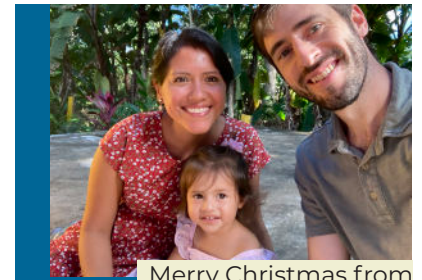
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SCAN
to stay
in touch



GRACE MINISTRIES
INTERNATIONAL



Merry Christmas from
the Tuttles!



GMI Nicaragua Team:
Corderos, Tuttles, and
Seravallis



Friends giving with
Neighbors