

## December 2008 Adventures

When we left off in November, we were still in Guayaquil, Ecuador. It seemed our container was “selected” to be inspected by the anti-drug enforcement team. With all the paperwork required we had to wait another week for the inspection to be completed. PLT we were inspected and cleared for departure. Our container with our faithful Hilux shipped out on Saturday, Dec. 6 at 7:00 AM. We were finally able to fly out of Ecuador on Monday, Dec. 8<sup>th</sup>.

We were excited to get into Panama City and retrieve our truck. However, arriving on Dec. 8<sup>th</sup> meant we were arriving on Mother’s Day – and a national holiday! Everything was closed. Our container was scheduled to arrive at 5:00 AM on the 8<sup>th</sup>, but we had to wait till the next day to retrieve it, or so we thought. We actually got the truck out of the container on Wednesday, Dec. 10<sup>th</sup>, but spent the night in Panama City to avoid driving at night.



This photo is of Ed, very happily driving the truck out of the container. We stayed at the port all day waiting for the container to be released for opening. When it was finally released to be opened, we still had to wait another hour for the truck to be fumigated (1<sup>st</sup> of many fumigations). We think the customs officer felt sorry for us for waiting all day. That’s why he let Ed drive out the truck, Linda got in, and we were finally on our way.

When we picked up the truck, we had driven 9,615 kilometers (5,961 miles) in South America. We were then ready for some Central America traveling.

Central America continued to offer us opportunities to “donate” to the local police force. We have been so accustomed to being stopped by the police; it doesn’t phase us at all. After stopping us, one officer said “I’ve never seen a vehicle from Paraguay!”

We drove through Panama, Costa Rica, and on into Nicaragua. Panama and Costa Rica we were able to travel in 2 days for each country. We enjoyed the greenery we passed, as well as different crops – pineapple, coffee, banana, papaya, and lots of good veggies!

Pineapples are growing in the foreground of this photo. We would pass trucks full of ripe pineapple and the smell was wonderful!





This photo was taken early in the morning while the clouds still covered the tops of the mountains. Note how the sun formed a beautiful rainbow on the clouds!

We finally arrived in Chinandega, Nicaragua after traveling 11,159 kilometers from Asuncion, Paraguay (that's about 6,920 miles); in 58 days. We were only in Nicaragua for 30 hours before boarding a plane for Atlanta, GA. We were able to then fly to Mill Valley, CA to spend Christmas with our daughters, son-in-law, and grandson. We were back in Nicaragua by Dec. 30<sup>th</sup>. At the airport in Nicaragua, we were met by our new Nicaraguan friends, which really made us feel like we were coming home. Next month we hope to share with you how our ministry will be starting here in Nicaragua.



Our wonderful family at Christmas.  
L to R  
Ed, Linda, Kara, Rhian with Austin,  
James, and grand dog Maggie.



Our new Nicaraguan friends  
welcoming us to Nicaragua.  
They had a short devotional for  
us, then sang songs.

*In His Service,  
Ed & Linda Baker*