



NICA NEWS FROM ED & LINDA BAKER

AUGUST, 2009

We got back to Nicaragua the first of August, trying to decide if it was hotter in Texas or here in Nicaragua! We decided it was an even toss – when the temperature is over 100° F, what's the difference!

We took 2 trips north to the mountainous area of Somoto. There are 2 interesting projects near Somoto, both with the MEFEL group of churches. The first is at the Santa Isabel church which has running water, but it's only available for 1 hour every 8 days! The church is on high ground in lots of rock. We will have to borrow the Amigo's cable rig, and hope to start this project in September. When completed, about 25 families should be able to use the well.



Above – Santa Isabel Church

Right – That's a tough way to get water to your house!



The next project is very interesting. The church is called Monte Sion de Volcan. We can drive just so far, and then we walk about $\frac{1}{4}$ of a mile straight UP about 500'. Here we found an entire village, complete with homes & a church made of concrete. All the materials are hand/horse/donkey carried up the hill. We had a meeting with the church members to determine what the specific needs of the community are. The area had water supplied by a spring that is uphill. By uphill, that's another $\frac{1}{2}$ mile walk, rising an additional 1,000'! However, the system is 19 years old, and the pipes from the spring to the village had sprung leaks. This meant the only way the people could get water is by walking uphill. The one advantage over Santa Isabel is that the walk is down hill with full buckets.

The community has asked us to help supply them with materials to repair the damaged water lines, and various other system repairs. They would also like for us to purchase a concrete clothes washing sink to be placed up at the spring source. We'll get the materials to the base point, and ask for their help in getting the supplies up to where they are needed. We hope to make these items available in September.



Above – Church on the hill
Right – Spring box



Besides visiting future project sites, we also drilled a well this month. We had an emergency call from a community here in Chinandega. It seems the Barrio of La Libertad had their well of 35 years collapse. The neighborhood has more than 350 families who were without water for about 2 weeks. We had to borrow another Amigos drill rig for this well, because the well needed to be drilled to 12” to house an 8” diameter casing. We were learners on this project since we had never used this type of rig. After the well was completed, we had a community celebration to give the glory to God for the well.



Busy month – plus - we were without electricity or water or both for much of the month. This just keeps us in touch with our community! To God be the Glory! More in September.

IN HIS SERVICE,
ED & LINDA BAKER

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