



## NICA NEWS FROM ED & LINDA BAKER

JUNE, 2009

As we mentioned in May, we arrived back in Nicaragua on June 1<sup>st</sup>. We had a young North American man living in our house during our 3 month absence. However, he went on vacation the last week before we got back. Did we mention the dust? While we were in the states, we heard the dust storms were so bad a driver would need headlights driving in the middle of the day! So, all this dust settled in our house for a week. We spent the first 2 days back “home” just cleaning!

When we arrived in Nicaragua, there hadn't been a diagnosed case of swine flu in the country – yet. Everyone disembarking the plane had to go through a temperature indicator. We were also visited at our house by the health department, who checked us out. We must have passed since we weren't deported.

We did have a great surprise. Our landlady had “remodeled” our kitchen. Actually, she had new counter tops & a new ceramic tile floor installed. But the difference was great. This also allowed overflow of kitchen stuff into a former bathroom she had removed. Now we don't feel like we're cooking on top of each other!



This month, we've made several trips into Managua trying to get our permanent residency visas. These will allow us to stay in the country for 5 full years, avoiding having to exit every 3 months. All our paper work is in, now we just have to wait another 2 or 3 months. However, during the processing we are clear to stay without leaving the country.

Living in a tropical climate has definitely changed the wild life we have around our house. We had a large family of bats living in the ceiling above our bedroom window. It's amazing how noisy a small bat can be at night! We tried many local traditions to get rid of the bats. Our favorite was to put garlic where they live. However, our bats seem to be Italian because our bedroom smelled VERY garlicky and the bats didn't move out. Finally, we just used the North American tradition of poison. That has seemed to do the trick.

We mentioned the iguana living on our roof in February. It seems there are 2 iguanas that live between the sheet metal roof and the drop down acoustic ceiling. So far, they are still part of our family. They are fairly quiet at night, just get noisy when they leave in the mornings to sun in the trees. Other wildlife we've had in the house this month is 2 snakes! One was a coral snake and the other a bushmaster – both died of “machete poison”. Sometimes we think we live in a reptile house at a zoo. Needless to say - we never walk around in the dark without shoes.



Other issues – be careful hanging laundry outside under trees. We have a guava tree in the back yard where parrots love to eat the ripe fruit. They are a joy to hear and see. However, we hung our shower curtain to dry across 3 of our clothes lines. And yes, the birds do enjoy using the potty over our clothes. Back to the washer!

Speaking of laundry, this is the wet season. The rain is sometimes ALL day, very strong. We were coming home from another town during a heavy rain and were amazed how the flash flooding is a real problem. Since we are living between volcanoes and the ocean, lightening echoes off of everything outside. It's an eerie sound, even in the day.

This month Ed had the opportunity to help Amigos for Christ install a solar water pump. This was at Villa Rotario, a village of 37 families. They don't have electricity, but had been running an electric pump off a generator. The cost of the fuel became too expensive, so they had not been using the generator. They were walking ½ mile downhill for water – which means ½ mile uphill with full containers. The new solar pump is installed and working like a charm.



Line to fill buckets with water



Sisters taking care of sisters

The GREATEST blessing we had this month was the installation of **air conditioning!** It's been really hot sleeping under a mosquito net with only fans. We had single room AC units (called splits) installed in our bedroom & living room. Now we can close the windows & sleep like babies (except for various night noises!).

More to come in July – keep praying for our ministry here in Nicaragua. We're coming around, thanks to you great prayer warriors!

**IN HIS SERVICE,**  
**ED & LINDA BAKER**

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