



## NICA NEWS FROM ED & LINDA BAKER

### SEPTEMBER, 2009

The first of September we drove south to begin a new project in a community named Cristo Rey. This community has been such a different project that we created a "Stories to Tell" on our web site. Please visit "Cristo Rey" in the section ["Stories to Tell"](#) to read all about this project site.

This community has 2,500 families, with 30 new families moving into the area each month. The needs are great, with just 1 drilled well serving the entire community. We were able to drill another well to 220', putting in casing to 212 feet. We were also able to install an elevated tower & water tank. We put a 1/2 hp submersible pump in the well. This well will provide water for only a section of the community, but it is a start to having a better life which these folks hoped for when they moved to Cristo Rey.



Drill site in front of the church



Tower and tank

We had a chance to visit with some Atlanta folks this month. A team from Norcross First UMC has been coming to Nicaragua for several years. This church, led by Atlanta District Superintendent Jim Lowry, has built a Methodist church in the barrio of Ruben Dario in Leon. They are also in the process of building a Methodist church in Las Parcelas. We enjoyed visiting with the team at the church in Leon, and have decided to worship at this church every week. It is only about a 30 minute drive for us, and they have a worship service on Sunday mornings. Most of the local churches worship on Sunday evenings – we just can't get use to that! Call us old fashion, but Sunday morning just isn't the same without being in church!

The construction on the church in Las Parcelas is currently at a stand still. All that remains is a roof, and when funds are available, they have asked us to help with the final construction. They also would eventually like to have a well drilled with a hand pump.



Methodist Church, Ruben Dario, Nicaragua



Church in Las Parcelas

We have had the privilege to help with obtaining sports equipment for the Vida Joven (Young Life) group here in Chinandega. Vida Joven is a little different in Nicaragua in that the groups are formed by barrio (subdivision) instead of by school. This allows for those youth who are not in school to participate. You may not realize, but baseball is BIG here in Chinandega. Since 1979, there have been 10 major league baseball players from Nicaragua, but Chinandega is the home of Vicente Padilla. He is currently pitching for the Los Angeles Dodgers, with a contract of \$12 million – now that’s a LOT of córdobas!

This month we also became official Nicaraguan citizens, as we now own a Nicaraguan cedula (national ID card). This means we don’t have to leave the country every 3 months to renew our visas in our passports. We had also gone through this process in Paraguay, but here in Nicaragua it was much quicker and less corrupt. Ed also went through the 3 day process of getting a Nicaraguan driver’s license. After his ordeal, Linda will just continue to use her International license.



We end September with another request for prayers for yet another family member who has gone to be with our Lord. Ed’s Aunt Weasie (Louise Watts) passed away on September 17<sup>th</sup>. She was not only an aunt, but also a dear friend. She will be missed. This photo of Aunt Weasie with Ed was taken just in May, 2009.

**Louise Strauss Pierce Watts**  
**October 24, 1923 – September 17, 2009**

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

[www.aguadevida.org](http://www.aguadevida.org)