



NICA NEWS FROM ED & LINDA BAKER

APRIL, 2010

It never ceases to amaze us how such small communities can dedicate a project with such grand measures! The dedication for the water project at San Luis 2 (see March 2010 for project details) was held the first of this month. The trip to the village is only about 3 hours from Chinandega, but the last 2 miles are over a horse path. When we arrived, the community had placed a welcome banner across the road, and had a covered area for the service. A local pastor & the music group from his church provided some words of dedication & music. Ed spoke about the water being only from this world, but the water of life is from Jesus Christ (from John 4:14).



The food was provided by one of the ladies from the community. We met her when we first went to San Luis 2 to preview the project. She was raising a pig to be cooked for the ceremony. Unfortunately, she died of an aneurysm to her brain in January, just before the dedication. However, the community did honor her wish for the food contribution and we had a delicious meal of grilled pork.

One of the projects we have wanted to do since coming to Nicaragua and working with the drillers at Amigos for Christ is to give a course on proper well design; coupled with basic hydrology. The drillers with Amigos have great knowledge of the actual drilling of the well, but lack experience with the design element. The course was received "well", and we had a good chance to share talents & experiences with each other.





We have mentioned several times about the problems with the well at El Chonco. In April; Ed, the CARE representative, & the Amigos representatives surveyed wells in the area to find an acceptable location to drill a new well. A site was identified, and Amigos started the drilling the end of the month. Hopefully in the May Nica News we'll have good news for the people of El Chonco.

We have been asked by the Rotary Club of Hilton Head, SC to help identify an international project with the club here in Nicaragua. This gave us a great opportunity to attend a Rotary meeting, & get to know some of the local Rotarians. Ed spent a day with a club member, visiting a possible site in the community of Ojo de Agua, not far from Chinandega. This will be a difficult location since it is all rock. The Rotary from Hilton Head may partner with a Rotary from Wisconsin to complete the project.

This month we also had a chance to visit a rehabilitation center in La Dahlia – which is northeast from us. The center houses recovering drug & alcohol addicts of all ages. Some of the residents are brought in by their families; others are picked up off the street by the police. It's a Christian center, based on the 12 step AA program – but the residents are not allowed to leave. They had a well drilled a few months ago, but the well was never properly developed and was not functioning. We helped them develop the well, and offered our services in getting the well up & running with a hand pump. They also have a chlorination system on the property they are using with a local spring.



Cleaning out the well, it's really dirty!



There is a school on campus since so many children are residents due to drug addictions

We don't know if we've mentioned this, but we have a Bible study in our home for the North American interns with Amigos. It's been a blessing to be able to study God's Word with fellow believers AND in ENGLISH!

More news from Nicaragua next month.

IN HIS SERVICE,
ED & LINDA BAKER

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