



NICA NEWS FROM ED & LINDA BAKER

MARCH, 2010

We've had a very unusually hot end of summer (or dry season). Even the locals have commented about the heat. The days are above 100°, with evenings cooling down to around 90°. Just when we think we've adjusted to the heat, we HAVE to turn on our air conditioner. We are blessed to have an a/c, as most Nicaraguans live with only fans in their homes. Please pray as we all anxiously await the coming of our winter (or rainy season) and slightly cooler temperatures.

In January 2010, we wrote to you about a new project that involved Ed as the Project Engineer. The project is at El Chonco, located about 10 miles from Chinandega. Everyone was anxious to get the project off the ground for the 235 families in the community. However, it seems that the water has a high concentration of minerals, which makes the water quality unacceptable by the Central American Water Standards. This has been a major disappointment for everyone involved. Ed, a representative from CARE International, and a representative from Amigos for Christ will be meeting to determine the next step. Please pray for the people of El Chonco as they patiently wait for this project to be completed.



The homes in El Chonco were built about 10 years ago, after Hurricane Mitch, by a Dutch relief organization. The organization didn't finish the project, but left the remaining funds in the "hands" of a Nicaraguan. He pocketed the money, so the community was never finished. This left a negative impression with the locals about relief organizations which has been difficult for us and other groups to overcome.

We are often asked how we decide on a project. We listen to the needs, how many families are effected, will the community help with the project, how long has the community been without water, and how far to the nearest water source – these are a few of the issues we review. San Luis 2 had been without water for 8 months. They exhausted all the government options, and started approaching private relief organizations. They contacted Amigos for help, who then approached us to see if this was the type of project we would be interested in helping. The community is about 15 years old. Six years ago, a Spanish relief group drilled them a well about 400' deep. Their pump's motor died 8 months ago, leaving the community of 40 families going by horse back to get water which was 3 miles away. The community had saved \$500, which they used to try and repair the motor. After this failed, our ministry agreed to help by buying the new motor and control panel. The community's involvement was just heart warming! They borrowed \$1,200 from the Amigos Small Business Enterprise to pay for the installation, and other expenses incurred with the new motor. The project was completed in March, but the dedication will be held in April. We'll give you the details next month!



Left – the water committee with the new motor.

Above – the project was finished at night, but they were still lined up for water!

We had a quick trip to California to visit our grandsons. Our first grandson, Austin, turned 2 on March 27th. One of the advantages of living in Nicaragua is being closer to our family. It was a treat to be with these 2 wonderful boys for a few days, and enjoy cooler weather!



Austin – 2 years



Will – 3 months

April comes (without showers) quickly as we returned to Nicaragua, just in time to welcome a team from First Presbyterian in Hilton Head, SC. We'll let you know how they faired in our hot city of Chinandega.

Please continue to pray for the people in El Chonco. This project wears on our hearts as we know the difficulties the people are facing without water in this extreme heat and dry season.

IN HIS SERVICE,
ED & LINDA BAKER



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