



NICA NEWS FROM ED & LINDA BAKER NOVEMBER, 2010

November has been a great month for us. We had the chance to receive a group who was visiting us for the first time. What was so special is that this is the first church, outside of our home church, we visited as itinerating missionaries! A ten year full circle.

We had several activities planned for the Aldersgate UMC Church from Montgomery, AL. One of the trips we wanted to make was to visit San Luis 2, which is in northern Nicaragua. The church helped fund the project of installing a new pump in the community well. We wanted to give them a chance to visit the small, rural community. If you want to review the project, just check out our newsletter for April, 2010. The technical details of the project can be found on our web site at

http://www.aguadevida.org/Project%20Updates/San_Luis_2/San_Luis_2.htm.

As we've mentioned, we have been in the rainy season, with higher than normal rainfall. So, we took a day to ride up to San Luis 2 to check out the roads before the team arrived. While we were there, we talked to the head of the Water Committee, Renee, about how the community was doing, etc. We asked him about his personal land in the area, what he grew, and how much land his family owned. His answer was so inspiring. He answered the question about the amount of land he owned this way, "by the grace of God & the sacrifice of my father, my family owns a couple hundred acres". Now isn't that a great way to answer that question?

We spent a few days with Aldersgate finishing the church at Divino Niño. This church has been blessed with 3 teams helping with the construction, Cannon UMC, First Presbyterian of Hilton Head, and now Aldersgate UMC. The local folks have expressed their thanks in such loving ways. For Aldersgate, they prepared a lunch for us with chicken, rice, and salad. It is so humbling eating food from people who live in champas (homes made of 4 poles with black plastic around the poles – we would call them shacks).



Left – Concrete mixing lessons
Above – Brian enjoying time with Pastor Paulino



Working with a church in Nicaragua wouldn't be complete without a program for the children. We had Sunday School for children & adults. Of course, a piñata was involved!

We did forge the rivers & woods to visit San Luis 2. It was amusing to us, we informed the team we had checked out the roads and they were passable. Some of the team members seemed to think "passable" wasn't a word they would have used to describe the route! We were again welcomed with a wonderful lunch. We doubt these folks get meat at every meal, but they had each of us a plate loaded with grilled beef – and it was wonderful!



Right – Visiting the water tank at San Luis 2



We also had the opportunity to dedicate the well at Los Rotarios. This village didn't have electricity, so solar panels had been installed to power their pump. However, the water table is at 365', and the solar pump just didn't have enough humph! The village finally had electricity installed, and we had the privilege of providing a new pump system. We dedicated the project before the electricity was officially "turned on", but they should be enjoying water to their homes today. Los Rotarios is the home of the women who work with Bead Amigas, a special project of Linda.

Our Thanksgiving was uneventful. But we did travel back to the US at the end of the month. We'll have some exciting news to share with you in December. Please continue to pray for us as we look to our future.

IN HIS SERVICE,
ED & LINDA BAKER

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