

Dear Family and Friends,

February 2008

I am writing this update from Costa Rica where I am visiting with my parents. They were able to return to Nicaragua this year and were even able to go with us on one of our recent teams. This was a highlight for me as for so many years I have talked about these experiences and now they were able to see for themselves. Other highlights from the team included working alongside several Nicaraguan providers (2 dentists, a doctor and a medic), being able to provide restorative dentistry and adding a full day of health teaching. The team was from Carrollton, near our hometown of Cedartown, Georgia.

Other teams in January included the annual day camp which this year took place in two villages along the River Bocay. Through a very generous donation from a pharmacy in Georgia, we were able to add a medical component to this trip. The needs were great and we are looking forward to returning with a larger medical/dental team this December. The river trip was a real adventure with howler monkeys in the trees and small crocodiles sunning themselves on the river banks. Travel was by dugout canoe. Days were long and hot but at night we were rewarded with cool baths in the river and fried fish caught by Pastor Rey's spear gun. The team was led by our niece and nephew, Marie and David Fincher.

Another trip found us in Pueblo Nuevo where a sister organization ([www.bountifulgrace.com](http://www.bountifulgrace.com)) has been working with a community for several years. Each year they help the villagers with a project. This year it is completion of a deep well to provide clean water. The team also helped them paint their school and church and had activities for the children. Because this team has been going to the same village for a number of years, deep relationships are forming. We all felt that the projects took second place to the sense of connection and friendship we experience while there. Sleeping in tents under the stars added a further element of joy.

We were grateful to have Jim Ramsay, our boss at the Mission Society, come and spend some time with us. It meant a lot to be able to share with him some of the ministries taking place here. It looks like that visit may forge a further connection between our Nicaraguan pastors and the wider missionary community.

Now Ronnie is in northern Nicaragua with our annual dental team from North Carolina. They will be holding dental clinics in several communities as well as doing an outreach for the children. I had planned to be with them but after Ronnie and I brought my parents to Costa Rica, my Dad developed a small muscle tear in his leg and I did not feel comfortable leaving them here. He is doing better now and I am thankful for the opportunity to be able to stay with them and spend this time with them. They are both 83 years old now; my Dad will turn 84 in April.

A story – several weeks ago, Ronnie, little Jose and I were on a bus going to Managua. We were still in Tipitapa when our bus tried to pass another bus in front of us. The streets are narrow and the bus in front kept swerving, preventing our driver from passing. Suddenly both buses stopped. There was some commotion and people started getting off the bus. When we looked out the window, we saw the drivers had stepped outside too, both brandishing a machete. Just as quickly, the people climbed back on, the driver took his seat and we were on our way again. Our bus must have lost the showdown, though, because we ended up going to Managua on all the back roads.

There are still things we miss dearly but sometimes the miraculous happens, such as when I found real German bread in the supermarket. It was the authentic kind that I couldn't even find in Atlanta. I have to admit that I was close to tears but restrained myself because Miguel, one of our workers, was with us. Now if I could just find black licorice...

We are at \$19,020 toward our \$25,000 vehicle. If you would like to donate to make this much-needed purchase a reality, please send a check payable to Acts 1:8 to:

Acts 1:8

P.O. Box 23

Cedartown, GA 30125

Please designate *vehicle* on your check.

In one way or another, so many of you are playing an integral part in this ministry and on behalf of all those whose lives you've touched, we thank you.

Blessings,  
Ronnie and Angi