

















Winter 2008

[www.msum.org/people/hopkins](http://www.msum.org/people/hopkins)  
e-mail: [ronnieangi@gmail.com](mailto:ronnieangi@gmail.com)

## Inside this Issue

-  Time for Family
-  Adanelly Update
-  River Trip
-  The Bakers
-  Uniform Project
-  Sewing Project
-  Soccer Team News
-  Computer Lab
-  Camp Motorcycle
-  Campamento MEFEL Staff
-  Training
-  Praise Report
-  Prayer Request
-  Thank You

**Tax deductible contributions for Ronnie and Angi's support can be sent to:**

**The Mission Society  
P.O. Box 922637  
Norcross, GA 30010**

Please make your check payable to  
*The Mission Society*  
Designate it  
*Hopkins Support 287/HG*

## The Mission Society

# HOLA FROM THE HOPKINS

## Greetings to all from Campamento MEFEL

The camp is back in full swing, housing teams, doing outreaches into the local neighborhoods as well as outlying communities and providing a place for individuals and groups to "retreat." Recently two different individuals referred to the camp as an oasis and it is our hope that it will always be that.

## Time for Family

Ronnie and I were able to go home for a visit this fall. We spent Thanksgiving with the Hopkins family in Cedartown and later Angi was able to travel to NJ to spend Christmas with the Priester family. During this time, we also had the chance to see friends and visit some of our churches. We made the most of it and enjoyed the simple pleasures of life – eating familiar food, sleeping in a cold room with a comforter for warmth, hot showers and just the ease of getting around. As much as we love being back home, when it was time to return to Nicaragua, we were ready to go back to our new home.



**Uncle Tom admires his birthday cake that was made by Kali**

## Adanelly Update

Adanelly (Peanut) is still with us. In October she was diagnosed with a hydrocephalus, (fluid in her head is not able to drain normally). The doctors at the hospital where she was a patient at 2 months old did an operation in which they placed a shunt in her brain. The shunt drains the fluid so it does not accumulate. She recovered very quickly and the next day was back to her smiling, friendly self. We were tremendously blessed when the doctors offered to do the surgery for free. The hospital bill was also discounted and the balance was paid for by one of our churches. Her young parents love her very much but had a difficult time caring for her in their village without clean water, etc. They had asked us to keep her until she was 2 years old. We were willing but were concerned that she would grow up not knowing her parents. At the doctor's suggestion, we agreed to keep her until she was one-year-old (Feb. 14<sup>th</sup>). With this new diagnosis, it will be difficult for her to go back to her village (two days from good medical care). Shunts need to be carefully monitored and if there is a problem, quick medical attention is needed. The parents were here last month and we all met with the doctor. She carefully and with a lot of compassion explained to them why their baby could not live in the village at this time. They had expected to take their baby home and were sad but also accepted the reason for the decision. They stayed at the camp for a week and will be back for Peanut's first birthday. We

have made a commitment to them to help them spend as much time as they are able to with their baby. For now, it would be very difficult for the parents to make a move to the city but as they mature, this might be a possibility. We do not know what the future will hold, but we do know that this little baby's life is in God's hands and we trust Him with it.

Below is a picture of Peanut and Dr. Rick the day after her surgery. The next two photos are of her and her proud parents, two months after surgery.



### Access to the village is by boat



### River Trip

In December, our niece and nephew, Marie and David Fincher returned to Nicaragua with a youth team. The team built a preschool on the River Bocay and provided schoolbooks for both teachers and students. The preschoolers were each given a backpack with supplies. The team also held medical and vet clinics, did pastoral training and held Vacation Bible School. At the end of February, a smaller team of health providers will return to do more clinics in the villages along the river.

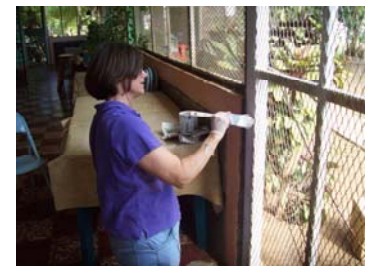


*Pastor Carlos baptizes our great-niece, Savannah*

### The Bakers

Ed and Linda Baker arrived in Nicaragua in December. They are fellow missionaries with the Mission Society and we are thankful to have them join us. They have found a place to live in Chinendega and have already hosted their first work team. The team worked around the camp,

accomplishing a great deal including installing fans in the dorms, and held a one-day medical clinic as well as 2 afternoons of Vacation Bible School.



### Uniform Project

As we mentioned in our last newsletter, the Carrollton UMC youth group raised money for school uniforms. Two of the women in the sewing circles have experience sewing uniforms and have their own sewing machines. Instead of buying the uniforms, we were able to give them this work. Between the two of them, they have sewn uniforms for children from three different schools in El Cua whose families could not afford to buy them. These uniforms will be delivered to the schools by Pastor Migdonio, pastor of the MEFEL church in El Cua. Thank you Sarah Butts and Carrollton UMC Youth Group for caring.

### Sewing Project

The sewing project continues to be a blessing to all involved. The women make the crafts in their homes and then meet regularly in their circles, under the leadership of the pastor's wives. Teams that come down are buying the crafts and several churches back home have sold items to their congregations. The women are getting more and more creative with their items and it is a joy to see their enthusiasm. Items, which we could always use, are tote bags and aprons to decorate, colorful buttons, yo-yo makers, embroidery hoops and cloth (cotton in bright solid colors and prints). If

your church would be willing to sell some of the crafts, please contact Angi via e-mail and we will arrange to send you a package.



Alma Rosa, leader of the Hechos 1: 8 sewing circle, displaying one of her crafts.

### Soccer Team News

A few weeks ago, one of the MEFEL soccer teams played in a league game and won 2<sup>nd</sup> place. As a reward for their hard work and good sportsmanship, we treated them to breakfast at the Mercedes Hotel followed by a swim in the pool. The guys loved it. We encouraged them to take full advantage of the buffet



and they did. No one, esp. the waiters, could believe the amount of food these young guys could eat. They brought their trophies, which served as the centerpiece of the poolside table set especially for them.

### Computer Lab

Our dream for a computer lab/library for the Los Playones School is moving closer to a reality. Mark Benson's team from Church of the Nations wired the schoolroom recently and built bookshelves.

We also have received two laptops with leads for more. If you would like to assist with this project, please consider helping us with the following items:

- Used laptops
- Tables and chairs (\$400)
- Spanish library books: reference books, storybooks, Bible stories, etc.
- Spanish programs for the computers (\$300)
- Printer (\$200)

### Camp Motorcycle

When we paid for our vehicle last year, we were able to get a tax deduction so that we had money left over. With that fund, we were able to purchase a motorcycle for the camp, which will be used by the staff, mostly Pastor Rey. This will help with trips to town for errands, etc.



### Focus on Campamento MEFEL staff

Javier is 17 years old and works full-time as the main yards man. He has been with us for two years. Javier rides his bike to work every day and is a very hard worker. He knows a lot about plants and how to care for them. Besides being responsible for the camp's plants, he takes care of



the animals, helps keep the camp clean, works in construction and helps Ronnie and Rey with the maintenance of the buildings. His dream is to study civil engineering one day. Javier has two sisters and three brothers. His favorite activity is swimming.

### Training

Ronnie is still working on his plan to provide more structured pastoral training as well as youth leadership training. Please consider making a donation to purchase material and to provide funding for transportation to the MEFEL communities.

Donations for this project as well as the Los Playones computer lab may be made to:

Acts 1:8  
P.O. Box 23  
Cedartown, GA 30125

Please make check payable to *Acts 1:8* and designate which project it is for.

### Praise Report

We thank God for providing for Adanelly's recent surgery.

### Prayer Request

Please continue to pray for Adanelly's health and for her parents, Xiamara and Yimileo.

### Thank You

Thank you for your involvement in this ministry. We appreciate every one of you. Your prayers, letters, packages and financial support encourage us to keep on.

*Blessings,  
Ronnie & Angi*