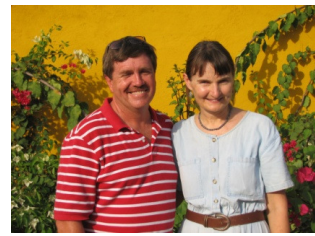


# NICA TIMES

## April-May 2012



The neighbor's dog regrets he came to visit

We have entered the month of June and the rains have finally started. The heat has not abated but we are glad to have the dust settle. As we used to do at the camp, when the rain starts, someone yells lluvia and we all run out to bring the laundry in. Getting it dry these days is sometimes a challenge. We continue with our various projects and are thankful for the work God has given us and for your partnership with us which makes it all possible. You are an important part of this ministry, whether it is through your prayers, letters of encouragement or financial support.

Peanut continues to enjoy her little preschool, going to Sunday School and playing in the park with the neighborhood kids every afternoon. Angi is enjoying having her cousin, Kathrin, visiting from Germany. We also have another addition to the family, Sissy, a chicken given to us by a family in Peanut's village.



Kathrin and Sissy

### Carrollton Youth Team

In April, a youth team came to spend a week with us. They traveled to El Cua where they were involved in various ministries, mostly working in the local schools. The puppet team from the Youth

Leadership Group joined the Carrollton team; it was great to see the interaction and bonding that took place. The young people learned a lot from each other and many are continuing their friendship via emails and Facebook.



Traveling Nica style

### Miraluz

Now that the rains have started the residents of Miraluz are thankful for their new gutters and barrels that were made possible through a grant from Northside UMC. Families will use their barrels for bathing, washing dishes and clothes.

Several families were also able to replace/repair their roofs before the rains started thanks to the Sewing Seeds, a group of women from Atlanta who have partnered with the families of Miraluz.



### **Pastors' Training**

In May Ronnie and Pastor Carlos were able to return to the River Bocay for a week of pastors' training. They were joined by three other pastors from Tipitapa. Each day pastors and their wives traveled down the river to attend a full day of teaching. They brought crops from their fields to help out with the cost of the meals. We are still seeking funding for this event as we were not able to raise



**The 2 teachers in the new school on the Rio Bocay**

the needed amount before the conference took place. Please consider making a donation to help with this. A donation may be made to Acts 1:8, P.O. Box 23, Cedartown, GA 30125 (please designate River Bocay Pastors' Training). Through a donation received for Bibles, Ronnie was able to give a Bible to each pastor that needed one. While he was on the River Bocay, Ronnie was able to check on the school that was recently built there. All is going well. The children are excited about school and the parents are proud their children are getting an education.

### **Sewing Project**

After we received a large donation of denim material from a factory in Managua, several sewing circle leaders traveled to El Crucero to visit a sewing project there to get more ideas for their own line of crafts. After visiting the El Crucero project, we held a sewing workshop at the camp. It was attended by 27 women... several



**Maria Adilia of Tipitapa and Janeth of Ocotol learn new skills that they will take back to their respective circles**

traveled seven hours by bus to get to the class. The sewing project provides women an opportunity to earn an income to help their families.

### **Other news**

Five months ago, little Jose from the Rio Bocay lost his left eye in an accident involving a stick. He and his grandparents traveled to Managua last week and he was fitted with an artificial eye. He left Managua a happy little boy.



**Jose, before and after**

## Youth Leadership Training

The Youth Leadership class is going really well. With the help of their mentors, the young people have been working on setting short and long term goals for their spiritual lives, their families, their education and their work. Melvin, a veterinary student from the village of Pueblo Nuevo, posted in his dorm one of the handouts he had received in the leadership class... the handout was on decision-making and some of the other students in his dorm asked to make copies of it. Svellana, a student from Tipitapa, relates that her church members have remarked on the change they see in the young people who are participating in the leadership class.... they have noted that they are taking a much more active role in church.



Jason, Ismael, Melvin and Nelson travel from the district of Chinendega each month to attend the Youth Leadership Class

The youth are meeting at the camp once a month. Many travel from remote areas, some as far as 8 hours by bus. Most of them are college students living on a limited budget. They are responsible for paying their bus fare one way. We pay for the return ticket as well as their meals and lodging. (The students do all the meal planning as well as the shopping.) Each of these weekends costs \$300. We are asking for donations toward this

project so that we will be able to continue this work. Donations may be made to Acts 1:8, P.O. Box 23, Cedartown, GA 30125. Please designate check Youth Leadership Training.



Angi & Peanut celebrate Svellana's 21<sup>st</sup> birthday

## Time for Fun



Thanks to Kim, we spent time enjoying a local crater lake

In April we completed our first 5-year term with the Mission Society. We are committed to continuing our work in Nicaragua. Would you consider becoming a pledge partner with us? It would involve pledging to make a donation on a monthly, quarterly or annual basis. Pledges vary from \$10 a month to \$100 a month. Pledges, as well as one-time donations, may be made online [www.themissionsociety.org/people/hopkins](http://www.themissionsociety.org/people/hopkins) or by sending a check to The Mission Society, P.O. Box 922637, Norcross, GA 30010-2637. Please designate the check **Hopkins Support 287/HG**. Many thanks to all of you. We could not do this without you.

Blessings,

Ronnie and Angi

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