

His Hands for Nicaragua

February 2023



How it all began...

25 years ago, Pastor Carlos' wife, Lorena, got pregnant with a son. When she was 8 months pregnant, the baby died. He turned his tragedy into a way to serve and donated all their baby gifts to the hospital. A woman called him to give him a gift for his kindness. When he went to her home, he found that it was actually her store. The lady gave him lots of clothes to donate to the hospital and he started giving it out to the villages around. Later, another woman reached out and asked if he was working for a ministry. At that time, he was just volunteering by himself. Then, another woman offered to give him milk for the babies. He would go for walks between Cascabel and Somoto and met lots of the kids along the way. He found 25 children living at the dump. He celebrated Christmas with them at the dump as a new pastor. The idea was birthed and started the project, Un Corazón Para Amar. This ministry now serves over 300 special needs families, ministers at 3 landfills, is training up pastors in the Miskitu Coast, and feeds 6,000 children all across Nicaragua.



Pastor Carlos and His Story in a Mural on the Farm



Un Corazón Para Amar Team Members

From Cascabel to Finca Monte Carlo

At that time he didn't even have a pencil. This was in 2000. He borrowed supplies and drew out the plan for the house at Cascabel on a canvas. In 2003, with the help of a missionary, Erik from Flutemaker Ministries, he purchased a \$500 piece of property in Cascabel. Another missionary, Adam, donated another \$500 to dig a well. Pastor Carlos predicted it would be a future project costing \$10,000. In 2007, Pastor Carlos came up with the idea to sell one bird whistle for one brick and sold them online. \$80,000 was raised in 8 months from selling only bird whistles and Cascabel was built to raise the 25 kids from the dump.

Those 25 kids grew up and the Cascabel house was too small. He decided he needed more land to feed them and give them work. He didn't have enough land in Somoto. He wanted an acre but didn't have money to buy land. He met Pastor Abel (now a ministry partner) in Jalapa 2011 who suggested to rent a farm for beans and corn. The children needed to work so he brought them to the farm to help.

No one asked about their children for 5 years. 20 of them ultimately decided to go back to their families. 5 stayed. One of whom is Deyvin who is now the President of the Board for Un Corazón Para Amar.

Pastor Carlos paid \$20 per year for 10 acres. The owner came to see all he had done and offered to sell him the land for \$25,000 but the bank owned it, so she wasn't allowed to sell it to him.



His priority was keeping God first, then family, and then as the pastor of the mercy children.

He went to the bank about buying the land and negotiated the price down from \$25,000 to \$12,000 by sharing his purpose for buying the farm- to help the children he rescued from the dump. A missionary couple committed \$17,000 to help him buy the land but the bank only wanted \$12,000. So Pastor Carlos blessed the original owner with the extra \$5,000, so she could buy another property.

Now Finca Monte Carlo is home to Pastor Carlos and his wife, two daughters and son, team members, and the occasional mercy child. As a good steward of the land that God gave him, they have created an agritourism business and agriculture education. They have honeybees, medicinal plants garden, fruits and vegetables, and a plethora of animals.



Nueva Segovia

Spending hours driving to the different areas Pastor Carlos and his team serves is not bad with views like this! The area is gorgeous!

Meet Your Sponsored Child

One of the benefits of coming on trips with us is getting to meet and spend time with your sponsored child. The gratitude they feel for our support is palpable. More importantly, sponsors have the honor of joining these families in prayer.



Interviews

Our main goal for our trips is to connect with a update the information on the children represented in our program- both sponsored and non-sponsored. With the help of our favorite translator, Hipo, we conduct dozens of interviews during our time there.

Finca Monte Carlo

A slice of heaven and what I imagine the Garden of Eden will be like, the amount of work they have done on this farm is incredible. Lush and green, you can wander in nature to relax after a long day of interviews or start your morning with devotions surrounded by flowers and birds chirping.

