

His Hands for Nicaragua

March 2024



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 supports feeding centers that feed 6,000+ children all across Nicaragua.



Visiting at the home of a sponsored child



Team Picture at the end of our trip

Trip Testimonies

It's almost hard to put into words what this trip was for me because there is so much I could say. Before this trip I had no desire to go on a mission trip, mainly due to my own selfishness and not knowing what to expect. There were moments where I was uncomfortable but I saw it as the Lord's way of stretching me, molding me and showing me another glimpse of the Kingdom of Heaven. I saw my church family both here and there being the hands and feet of Jesus, I saw what it means to truly live in faith. I saw the joy, love and gratitude in the faces of the families we spoke to, which by our American perspective their circumstances are far from joyous. I saw a boy with a birth defect that resulted in him having to walk around by using his hands but even so he had so much life in his eyes, he was like a blinding light to me and had the most beautiful smile. I now sponsor him. ~Jennifer



The faith they have to rely on God for all their needs is truly inspiring. Grateful that we got to be a part of handing out the bags of food that sponsorships help provide for special needs children and their families. Listening through the very few (Spanish) words I was able to understand of a service and worship.

I broke down into tears when God spoke through them bringing peace and reassurance to a situation they had no idea about.

The joy from the “small” amount of things that most of our country would consider nothing is everything. They’re the rich ones.

I cannot explain how much I want to go back. To the place that changed my life. I aspire to love the way those beautiful people do. And I cannot wait to see where else God places me with this new door opened. ~Riley





The people we met walked many hours to reach us. One lady rode a horse 3 hours to meet us. The stories told and the reality of their living conditions which we experienced first-hand on many occasions left us feeling humbled.

As I prayed in English with many families I realized God's language is universal and tears streaming down both our faces was mutual love and respect as we came together as one in God's presence. I asked God to bless the children and their caregivers. ~Lois

Our Partner's Prayer Requests

What is your main prayer request or need this year?

The more resources we have, the more people we can help. We need to buy a new truck as we travel to many places and depend on a vehicle to serve our people.

How has the Lord answered a prayer or provided for you, the ministry, or the church this year?

An answered prayer is that the His Hands for Nicaragua team was able to come this year. It's always an answered prayer when you return.

How has the sponsorship program impacted your ministry?

The support from HHSM for our sponsorship program with 54 sponsored children gives us the ability to provide things that the families need, especially formula and toilet paper.

How has His Hands impacted your ministry?

The fact that you return over and over again to the families we serve, gives us the confidence to open up and trust you. We are able to provide more things now like beds, mosquito nets, and kitchen supplies, which gives families a better life. You teach us and recommend more things for our ministry and the children.

Pastor Carlos took an idea of wheelchair cushions and wedges on our last trip and ran with it. When we arrived they had hired a woman to make them and had them ready to give out. The PT and OT worked together making many wheelchairs more comfortable during our trip.

What dream do you have for your ministry?

That every child would have a house to live more comfortably.



Sightseeing & Team Bonding

We spend a lot of time driving to the different communities the ministry serves throughout Nueva Segovia. This trip we clocked over 40 hours driving. We get to see the beauty of Nicaragua, spend lots of quality time with each other in the back of a truck, and minister with our brothers and sisters in Christ.

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. My daughter got to meet our sponsored child for the 1st time on this trip after 6 years of sponsoring her! Your prayers are powerful and felt by these people thousands of miles away.



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. Whether you speak Spanish or not, love needs no translation!