



June 30, 2008



The last three months have been very difficult for us. We have been challenged mentally, physically and spiritually. April was spent terminating employees and transferring the furniture and household items from the girls' house to our home for storage. We were so thankful that God had provided us with an intern, Morgan Attema as her assistance and encouragement during this period was invaluable. We also said good bye to Hazel who was working for us in an administrative position. She felt called to return to Managua with her family and shortly thereafter obtained a position with TACA Airlines. We can not thank those of you that have prayed for us, sent emails or called with words of encouragement and love. You have no idea how important that is. We still have difficulty driving down the street where the girls' house was!

Our attorney advised that during May there was nothing we could do here, it was his time to work. This allowed us to visit our youngest daughter and her family in Texas and receive some badly needed hugs from our grandchildren. Then we were off to South Carolina. Most of the time was spent at Dorn VA Medical Center where Mike attended a class and had his initial exam to obtain veteran medical benefits, as we currently we do not have any medical coverage. Unfortunately, they were not able to complete all the tests so Mike will need to return for more tests within the next couple of months. While in South Carolina again God provided as he has in the past. Friends opened their homes to us, provided love, fellowship, transportation, a mountain home and a lake home to relax and spend some one on one time with the Lord. As God's word says "He will never leave us or forsake us."

We returned to Nicaragua to find out that we had record rainfall in May and in early June we experienced our first Pacific hurricane of the season. It made landfall in Managua. In Rivas we had heavy rain for two days but were spared the heavy winds. Needless to say we hit the ground running.

We also received word from our attorney that the non-profit organization Iglesia Comunitaria Punto Norte (North Point Community Church) had been approved and registered in record time. He advised that he had never seen one approved so fast. It had to be God! The next step is to have a legal notice published in La Gaceta Diario Oficial, the legal newspaper in Nicaragua. This should occur by mid July. It was supposed to be published this week but in Nicaragua nothing happens on time. At this moment please pause and lift up a word of thanksgiving to our Lord. While this is just the first step of many yet to be completed we are so very thankful and encouraged.



We also spent time following up on the children and the little girl from Rivas who needed heart surgery. We are happy to report that Maria Eva had her surgery and has been returned to her foster family and is expected to lead a normal life. Praise the Lord. The children are doing fine and are adjusting to their new surroundings. Betania and Julieta are at CICRIN on the Island of Ometepe. Betania has seen a pediatrician concerning her nutritional absorption problem. We have also given CICRIN several months of age appropriate milk and a special nutritional drink to insure she receives the vitamins and minerals necessary. Julieta is such an outgoing child that several people have already asked Helen about adopting her.



Kevin, Johana and Sara are at Casa Assi here in San Jorge. We have spoken with Kevin's social worker and the head of the orphanage concerning his needed heart surgery. His condition has been evaluated by their medical personnel and they are also looking for other options to have the surgery completed since the hospital here has not been able to perform the surgery to date. He continues to take medicine daily and his daily activities are monitored to prevent additional stress on his heart. Johana was happy to see us but very quiet and is having difficulty in school. Sara cries and just wants to be hugged.



Daniela and Juana are at Nuestros Pequeños Hermanos on the Island of Ometepe. Juana has been advanced to the second grade and appears to be adjusting to her new environment. Daniela now gets to see her older brother as he is also there. However, she told us she would rather be back in San Jorge at the girls' house. Needless to say that brought tears to our eyes. Just as it broke our hearts to say good bye to each of them when it was time to leave.

Francela has been returned to her home after several years of working with the family. Her mother attended the parenting classes that we held at MiFamilia in Rivas. She also agreed to take Francela for temporary visits over the last year and worked hard with the psychologist this year to enable Francela to be rejoined with the family.





Paula is doing well in school and MiFamilia has asked that we continue to support Paula so that she can finish college. Paula and Katalina are living in Buenos Aires on their aunt's farm and visit us weekly. Katalina works in the house and helps with the cooking. Currently, we are still seeking sponsors for Paula, David and Lourdes so that they can continue to study. Please keep in mind that tuition is only \$30 to \$50 per month depending on the course of study. So please pray and see if God is asking you to be a sponsor. If so please contact us for all the details.



We have also been blessed this month with a visit by John Hulsey and his son Jack. It was great to have them here and they both were a big help. John worked on our wireless network and computers to improve security and have them run more efficiently. He also worked at the H3C Community Center on the island. He completed the electrical wiring for one of the preschool classrooms and did other badly needed repair work.



Unfortunately, we also had to say good bye to Morgan after being with us for five months. It was time for her to return to her family in Iowa. She was such a blessing working with the children and at the community center on the island. She also gave us one last gift before leaving. She painted most of the rooms in our house and it has had an amazing difference. Morgan we can not thank you enough.

Just last week we were blessed with the privilege of meeting with several ministry heads at MiFamilia, the attorney responsible for Rivas and the woman that will supervisor our projects. We met to determine what steps will need to be taken to reopen our Christian homes for children and to open feeding centers for adults and children on the island. Here again God truly blessed us. Our attorney advised it could only be God that arranged this meeting. People do not just walk in and meet with ministry heads.

Normally this type of meeting is delegated to staff members. In addition, each department head pledged their support to expediting the paperwork necessary and asked if there were any other churches like us that wanted to help the poor of Nicaragua because the need is so great.

With global prices rising due to food shortages, the cost of fuel increasing (avg. \$5.60/gal), an inflation rate of almost 17% in 2007 and continuing this year the poor of Nicaragua are being forced to reduce the quality and quantity of food they are purchasing. Dr. Sandra is seeing more and more children and elderly that are not receiving proper nutrition. We see this as a major problem for this country now and a growing problem for the future. The government says it is going to help the poor but to date no one has seen any and none is anticipated.



The future holds great possibilities and much work. In order to be licensed for each project we will need to submit a project plan and financial information and other details for each project. We will need to prove that we have the financial support to facilitate each project. Therefore, we thank each of you that has continued to faithfully support us and ask others to please pray and ask God if you should be a financial supporter. We understand costs in the US, Canada and Europe are increasing. However, ten dollars goes a long way here in comparison and God will bless you for sharing what you have with the less fortunate.

Again, we can not thank you enough for your continued prayers, e-mails and calls. We can not move forward without you.

Standing beneath His wings,  
Mike & Joan Vilasi

**"... serve one another in love. The entire law is summed up in a single command: Love your neighbor as yourself." Galatians 5:13-14 NEV**

Please join us in prayer for:

- House parents
- Locations for the feeding centers on the Island of Ometepe
- Provision
- Teams for construction, prayer walking, community outreach and medical/dental groups
- Sponsors for college students

Your Tax Deductible Donations should be payable to: North Point Community Church  
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