

# Helping Hands

## With Hearts For Christ



*Changing Lives One Person at a Time*

It is hard to believe that the first three months of this year are already gone. We pray that you had a blessed Easter and took time to remember what Easter is really about, the death and resurrection of our Lord and Savior.

So far 2008 has been a whirlwind for us. We moved into our new rental home in San Jorge just 3 ½ blocks from the girls' home. This has been a blessing to us. It is on a much quieter street and we actually have a backyard with fruit trees and grass. Our puppies (dogs) love it. It also gives us the opportunity to visit the girls as often as we like and to be an active part of their lives, pseudo-foster grand parents.



We also were blessed with two teams from North East Presbyterian Church, Columbia SC. The first team concentrated on the medical and evangelism needs of the people from San Juan del Sur and Granada. Dr. Ben Jones led the medical team, Cherrie Nute Farley led the prayer team and Kevin and Amy Spencer led the children's outreach programs. Sorry we do not have better pictures but we made CDs for several people and can not locate the originals. It looks like we cut them not copied them so if anyone has a copy of the CD please mail it to us.



The second team consisted of members of North East Presbyterian Church and First Baptist Church from Aiken, SC. This team worked at the school in the dump, did home outreach on the Island of Ometepe and worked at that the girl's home making it a prettier place to live.



God further blessed us with a third Baptist Church, Mt. Airy, NC led by house painting the front wall, no small Brintle and Angie Dickerson lead a



team from Antioch David Brintle. The team worked at the girls' undertaking. Deborah mini VBS program which thoroughly enjoyed.

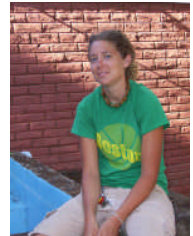


the girls Especially "A home outreach in climbed the waterfall Ometepe. Pastor the week by timely message at the Island of Ometepe. The Antioch team the girls. However, that was not God's plan as December it did not arrive until three weeks after the team left. Simply Nica time!!!



Tudi Ta". They also did San Jorge and on the Island of Dale topped off delivering a very the First Baptist Church in Moyogalpa on planned to install a 37 foot play gym for even though the wood was ordered in

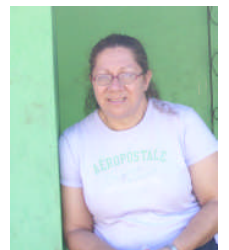
Morgan Attema our first long term intern arrived the last week of January and has been a true gift from God. She stays at our house when on the mainland and works at the girls' home with the young ones trying to keep them out of the teacher's hair while she is tutoring the older children. She helps out wherever she can, even playing night guard when we did not have one. She is also working at the H3C Community Center on the Island of Ometepe trying to get the garden up and running again.



Yes you heard right! We have not stopped working on the island. The facility on the island was closed as an orphanage but we have in no way stopped working on the Island of Ometepe. The facility is now home to a Preschool with 47 students and three preschool teachers. It is also the home of a sewing school to start teaching center in the near future. We are waiting for to begin practicing there as well. We plan a hand up to the community. Once we have organization we will try to get the property name.



and, Dr. Sandra is going natural medicine at the the Folkloric dance team on using the facility to be our own non profit in our organization's



Now for an update on our non profit situation. Our home church, North Point Community Church in Columbia, SC just completed the necessary paperwork to enable us to become an international non profit in Nicaragua. So North Point will shortly be an international church. John Sharp the Pastor of North Point just returned from Washington, DC getting all the papers signed and approved by Condoleezza Rice's office and the Nicaraguan Embassy there. This was no small undertaking. It took three days and two nights. We can not thank God enough that He has enabled this first of many steps to be completed. So please continue to keep praying!

**Building a Brighter Tomorrow – Christian Homes for Children** Since we open our first Christian home for children in November 2007 God brought us several new children, Julieta 3 yrs old, Kevin 4 years old with an 11 cm hole between the two chambers



*Our Mission is to share Gods love with all those that we meet.*



of his heart, Daniela 9 old. Paula started her a Baptist University systems engineering. not able to get into very happy and city of Leon. Petrona

university but decided she missed the island to her family. She is currently working as a graduate high school.



years old (Kevin's sister) and Juana 13 years first year at the UPOLI here in Rivas for Unfortunately, she was medical school but is prefers Rivas to the big enrolled at the same too much and returned nanny. She is the first person in her family to



God truly blessed us so much these past few months. He provided us with the strength and flexibility to attend to getting the girls who had never been to school ready for their first day and to enroll the others in Messiah, a private Baptist primary and secondary school in Rivas. He also provided a Christian Psychologist that the girls took to right away. She holds group sessions three days a week with them and we have already seen changes in their behavior and acceptance of each others and the start of them forming a family. God also provided a university teacher to tutor the girls two hours a day so that those that had never attended school could catch up and to help ensure the other girls' homework was completed correctly and to help them where needed. A music teacher started teaching the girls basic music just this month and the plan is to teach piano lessons in the future. David one of our translators has also begun holding English classes with the girls once a week. We have all begun to attend a local non denominational church that is very active and reaches out to the community. The girls are attending a weekly home group in their community. Kevin is also on a list for an American team to repair his heart and a local doctor also has contacts in the US that may be able to help. Right now Kevin is scheduled for open heart surgery this month or next. Unfortunately a piece of vital equipment has broken and the parts are not available here. So the hospital is awaiting the parts. So please pray for the parts to arrive so that the teams can begin coming to help those in need.



God also blessed us with a fantastic spring break with the children. Susanna brought a group of young people she works with to play games, read bible stories and have a good old fashion water balloon fight. It was amazing how God connected the teens with the children in just a few hours. The teens left wanting to know when they could come back. The girls had time to enjoy the small pool in the back yard.



Campo Alegría let us use the camp during the day for two days and as you can see from the pictures we had a blast. It was such a blessing during this holiday to be one big family, Lourdes and her husband, Hazel, Sergio and Lucia their older brothers and sisters, Morgan, Mike and I and all the children.



**We had no idea what a blessing it would be!**

**We write this portion of the newsletter with extremely heavy and broken hearts.** Mi Familia the government ministry that is responsible for the protection of children decided the last week of March that they could no longer continue to allow us to operate as a provisional center for children. So on Wednesday, March 26th they came to the girls' home and **took our children**. Our attorney, Mike and I, Lourdes the house mother and our psychologist appealed their decision but to no avail. They did agree to let us have some time with the children to allow us to talk to them and explain we did not understand but would always love them and they were not alone, God would always be with them. God allowed us to have enough time to dry our eyes and to just give each other great group hugs.



We do not understand why God allowed this to happen. But He has reminded us that the children were His first and they were a gift to us even if it was only for a short period of time. He also reminds us in the first chapter of James not to be angry. He also tells us that His plans are not always ours. So we sit here heart broken but leaning on our faith that God has something better planned!

We have no plans to stop planting seeds to build His kingdom here in Nicaragua. We will continue to pursue our own non profit and continue to work in the community here in San Jorge, Rivas and the Island of Ometepe.

We ask you to pray for the children and us, for strength, discernment and wisdom. We also ask that you continue to support our ministry financially and verbally tell others about it. We look forward to seeing new teams and interns work with us and in the community.

**Your missionaries to Nicaragua,  
Mike & Joan Vilasi**

**"Never give up. Eagerly follow the Holy Spirit and serve the Lord. Let your hope make you glad. Be patient in time of trouble and never stop praying. Take care of God's needy people and welcome strangers into your home.**

**Romans 12:11-13 CEV**

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