



March 31, 2009



March has been a busy month. We moved into our new rental house the beginning of the month. The rent is the same but the water and electricity will be more costly as we will not be receiving the benefit of the lower rate offered to members of the government provided to our previous landlord. We are still in the process of settling in but are already enjoying our new home. There is an unexplainable peace about living here, even though someone stole five plastic chairs from our front porch the second night we lived in the house. This means that we now have an additional expense of a guard but our peace of mind is worth it. Unfortunately this will impact the amount we will be able to

contribute to the ministry each month. However, we have faith that the Lord will touch hearts and provide the funding necessary for our ministry to continue.

Two young girls (a 3<sup>rd</sup> & a 4<sup>th</sup> grader) came to our door and asked for food. They explained that they had no food in the house. Georlene our right hand at the house and Joan took the girls home to investigate the situation. They had walked a significant distance from a very poor neighborhood. The family explained that while the father could only do light work because of back problems, the mother and daughter were employed. However, their employer advised them they had no money to pay them their monthly salary. Therefore, they were desperate and the girls asked the mother for permission to ask for food. God lead them to our home and allowed us to bless their family with food, milk, vegetables and fruits in their time of need.



We also visited Francela and her family. The family is doing great! Francela is calmer that we have ever seen her, smiles a lot and is getting good grades in school. What a change! The family is very active in church and her parents are leaders in the church. Francela attends church three days a week and truly seems to enjoy studying the bible. Praise be to God!!! Unfortunately, they we not planning to send her to her first year of secondary school this year due to finances. They have two other children that need to finish primary school. They planned to have Francela return to school in 2010. Here again God had us visit on the second day

of school, so we were able to purchase the supplies she needed and get her into school the next day. The family is poor but is blessed with a contentment North Americans find hard to understand. The house has no bathroom, dirt floors and they cook on a wood stove in a make shift kitchen. It would be such a blessing to this family if a team would build them a bathroom attached to the house with a shower and flush toilet.



Todd and Marcia Baldrige from Iowa were here this month with a team from their church. Their ministry is to bring filtered chlorinated water to schools and communities. This is their third year working on the Island of Ometepe. They started a project to bring potable water to 25 homes in the community of Las Pilas and God has allowed us to work side by side with them to complete the project. The community is digging the ditches and Todd and Marcia's ministry is providing the funding. Mike is overseeing the installation of the pipe that will bring water to this community. Todd and Marcia also blessed us with a system for Robbie & Murray Lathrop's pineapple farm.

The sewing school on the island is going strong. We have 15 students enrolled and only 5 machines. We are in need of at least five more treadle machines and funding for material as we are not in a position at this time to

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bring in a container. The garden program is moving ahead and we have been blessed with the funds to purchase a tiller. Unfortunately to date we have not located one in the country. We even spent a day and a half in Managua going from agricultural stores to hardware stores to where ever anyone thought we could find one. We ultimately found one for \$6,000 a bit out of our price range and it was the only one they had. Not a good sign for when repairs will be needed.



The end of the month brought visitors from South Carolina. Stacy and Mallory Boyd and Mallory's friend Jenny. They were truly a blessing as they got us to stop! We enjoyed the fellowship and seeing some of the beauty Nicaragua beholds. They spent time on the Island of Ometepe and got to visit with Alex one of the boys that was at the orphanage where we volunteered in 2003. They also rode on the new ferry to the island. The



ferry holds 1,000 people, 3 tractor trailers and 3 to 4 cars. We are really beginning to get spoiled.

Please join us in prayer for:

- The Lord to provide a way for us to bring in a container of clothes, material and other supplies needed.
- A young adult or couple to work with us on the island to start a youth center and church.
- Provision for monthly expenses and sponsors for our college or vocational school students.
- Strength, courage and wisdom for us as we continue down the road God has set before us.
- Funding to purchase an additional piece of property on the Island of Ometepe.

We know the impact the global financial crisis is having in the United States and we know the impact it is having here. The poor are getting poorer and businesses cannot continue to keep the few employees they have. This is forcing many to leave the country illegally or to resort to crime. We also know that a little can go a long way here! So please pray and ask God what your part should be in our ministry.

Standing beneath His wings,  
Mike & Joan Vilasi

**“Children, you show love for others by truly helping them, and not merely by talking about it.”**  
1John 3:18 CEV

**The Lord has lead us to support your ministry by:**

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