

August, 2008

Nicaragua Base News

Adventures in Missions

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In partnership with Entrega, a 501(c)3 Charitable Organization

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Prayer Requests:

◆ *For the success of Young Life in Granada, as we help to launch clubs in the barrio.*

◆ *For the political stability of this country.*

◆ *Healing for Sarah's broken elbow, or the wisdom to know if inconvenient medical attention is required.*

Medical outreach in the Barrio.



The "waiting room" under the Malinche tree

June saw the arrival of our first medical team here in Granada. Led by Dr. Andy Macfarlan and Mike Nicholaou, both of Trinity Presbyterian Church in Charlottesville, a group of 10 volunteers came to spend a week providing medical and vision care from the El Puente base in the barrio. Over five days, we saw 150 medical patients and another 200 or so people who went away with reading glasses, many for the first time. As Andy was the only doctor in the group, his days were

packed, while the rest of us worked to provide lab, technical and administrative support. We were joined by a squad of World Racers who made a special trip to Nicaragua to lend a hand and help with the afternoon Vacation Bible School for the barrio children. Pastor Flores' church also got involved, helping with logistics and prayer for each patient before they left.

The El Puente building served well. Although the floors were dirt, the space was orderly, clean and superbly staffed with gracious and attentive care providers. From the shaded 'waiting room' under the flowering Malinche tree in the back yard, complete with music and comfortable chairs, to the prayer and gifts on the way out, we strove to model servant-hood and excellence to people whose lives are a daily struggle for food, and for whom even basic medical care is an exception. Many opened their hearts to Christ before leaving, and all were invited to join us for a special outreach celebration on Wednesday night.

We want to thank the medical team of Andy and Carrie Macfarlan, Mike, Terri and Baker Nicholaou, Kristin Paulick, Hannah King, Caitlin Santucci, and Kristy and Elijah Stuart, and the World Racers Christie Albaugh, Cameron Cary, Megan Dunegan, Haley Gordon, Brandon Headrick and Pam Perry for their generous gift of time and resources to make this happen. As one of the most enjoyable and productive events we've had since being in Granada, we can't wait for their return.



Young recipient of reading glasses

Heather King joins the team on behalf of AIM.



Heather, on the right, and Hannah, one of our medical team volunteers

Having spent three months with us as an intern last summer, we are excited to welcome Heather King back as a member of our team here in Granada. She brings a varied set of gifts with her, including great musical talent, already much utilized in venues at El Puente and beyond. Her fluency in Spanish is helping us create an even stronger "bridge" to the young people of Granada, one of our principal audiences for outreach and programs in the barrio. She has a deep compassion for youngsters, particularly the girls who are coming of age on the dangerous streets here. Heather's background in Young Life will no doubt help us to design and execute innovative ways to reach this group. Some of you may have known Heather as a member of the Trinity Fellows program from two years ago where she served in Charlottesville and lived with Hannah (see picture) and her family. Hannah was here recently as part of the group of volunteers for the clinic. We are overjoyed to have Heather's warm heart and willing, creative presence among our growing community here in Granada.

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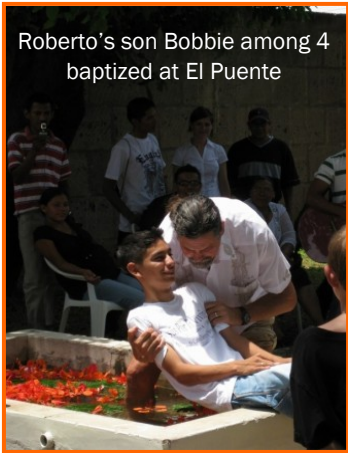
TheBridge church holds its first service at the El Puente base.

Having met at the offices of Opportunity International for the past several months, it was finally time to move to larger quarters. With the medical and World Race teams in town, it seemed like the right time to make the transition to El

Puente, at least for now. To mark the occasion, we celebrated with a barbeque for the teams and all who helped in the clinic, but not before baptizing four of our church family, including two of Roberto's children, in the cattle trough, filled with Malinche blossoms.

tion, many of whom are now bringing their families. Being in the barrio makes the church more accessible to the people who the Lord intends for us to serve in this outreach. Seeing formerly down-and-out men clean and sober with their children in their arms is a humbling experience. Many of them are attending the Wednesday and Friday morning study and fellowship groups at El Puente as well.

Perhaps you recall that TheBridge was originally intended to serve the English speaking population of Granada. Over the past year, however, the church's growth has been among Nicaraguans, which we have facilitated by Charles and Roberto working together in both languages. Now about 2/3 Nica, the church includes a noticeable population of individuals recovering from alcohol and drug addic-



Roberto's son Bobbie among 4 baptized at El Puente



Some of the guys from the study



Malinche trees at El Puente

El Puente may host a new Young Life club in Granada.

Vida Joven, as Young Life ("YL") is known in Nicaragua, has clubs in many cities but no presence in Granada. Through the efforts of Geralyn Sheehan, of Opportunity International, we have been investigating and developing a plan to bring YL to several locations in town. With its presence in the barrio, proximity to the soccer field and a secure yard, El Puente offers an attractive location from which to conduct clubs and outreach into the neighborhood. Over the next few months, youth leaders from our community, including Heather King, will be participating in Young Life training camps in Matagalpa, with the possible inception of clubs in the fall. In Nicaragua, YL follows a joint Catholic/Evangelical model, requiring 50/50 participation within any town. These two groups are not used to working together here, so it is a stretch for both communities, but it has

worked well in other towns.

Busy Mission Season.

With summer vacations going on back home, this is the busy season for mission trips. In addition to various AIM groups, we hosted a group of youth and teachers from Covenant School in Charlottesville, led by John Collmus. Along with continuing visits from AIM World Race squads, we will host a group of 14 youth from AIM's "Awakening" program, who will undergo a year-long process of missions preparation, beginning with at least three months in Granada. We have also welcomed various young people wanting to experience field work in Granada before making a long term commitment to missions.

Kaye Family News.

Work is pretty much complete on our house, and most of our belongings made it out of

customs, except a weed whacker and a garden tiller that we guess were just too tempting for some customs agent with a farm. All in all, we feel blessed, and are settling in fairly well. Banks and Willa are the principal translators in every conversation, giving them a sense of participation in our work. They are better known around town than we are. They are continuing a home school curriculum in the afternoons to ensure they are up to speed with the American system. Sarah's elbow, broken in a fall down the stairs during construction on the house, has not healed properly, limiting her activities. We will need to decide whether more extensive treatment will be needed, something we hope to avoid.

We've recently gotten a Vonage phone line, and can now be reached at US long distance rates @ (434)-227-4917. We'd love to hear from you. Finally, thank you for your participation and all your prayers.



One of our El Puente wildlife finds



Granada Skyline



Special day for Mom