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# Nicaragua Base News

Charles and Sarah Kaye

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## Prayer Requests:

- Successful base site negotiations.
- Expansion of Granada team and work in the area.
- theBridge to transform the ex-pat community.

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## Adventures in Missions

### Base Site Identified?

**L**ong before moving to Nicaragua, we began to formulate the plan for a multi-faceted base from which to offer help to people in need. Originally designed with the river-basin jungles of Costa Rica in mind, the plan has evolved to better suit the urban barrio environment of central Nicaragua and Granada. Having a good idea of what our site should contain, we began looking for a suitable property several months ago. Our path has led to what we hope will be the site for "El Puente" (the bridge), so named after the church recently opened as an outreach to the English speaking community around Granada (see next page).



Hoped for "El Puente" base site, Granada

The two acre property is located equidistant between the unofficial soccer (and goat) field 'el campo' and a thriving barrio church we are partnering with to reach young people at risk. It



Los Novatos shed their soccer flip-flops

has three buildings (all needing work) and plenty of open space for programs, including sports, educational and vocational outreach, a health clinic and possibly a refuge for young victims of sexual abuse. We've recently adopted a youth soccer team, "Los Novatos" (the novices), and paired them with the church youth group who will work with them as big brothers and spiritual mentors. It is our hope that we can acquire the property by the end of the year and open this resource to the community soon. Our mission team,

about to increase by two families in 2008, agree that this would be a superb site. With seed money from a matching grant we are negotiating with the seller, and hope to bring you more good news about this site in upcoming letters.

### Updating our Communications...

**A**fter over a year in the field, we've developed the '2/3 rule', which seems to apply to most things in Nicaragua. The power works about 2/3 of the time, we have water about 2/3 of the time, phone service is up 2/3 of the time, and we can understand our neighbors about 2/3 of the time. And we suspect you receive our communications via email about 2/3 of the time. But, it's a bit of the chicken and the egg to solve that problem...

Perhaps if you are getting these, you could ping us back to let us know. Our Microsoft email address is ckaye@bullrunfund.com and our AOL address is vectorlp@aol.com. We think the latter address is a better bet until we move into our own house (January?) Our cell phone numbers are listed to the left, in case you feel like calling us. We'd love to hear from you. Now that the mission trip season has slowed down, we've had some time to develop this newsletter format, which we hope is friendlier to your eyes and easier to follow.

### theBridge church expands to twice a month.

If you saw our last letter, then you know we have opened theBridge, the only English language service outside of Managua. Given that none of us have ever planted a church before, (and the somewhat hostile community among gringos in the area), we thought it would be some time before offering services more than once a month. We're a little

stunned and quite happy to report that we've been encouraged to move to twice each month, with a good chance of moving to every week by the beginning of 2008. Our group regularly draws people from as far as two hours away, and is holding to the 2/3 rule, in this case about 2/3 gringos and 1/3 Nicas. With an infants room, children's class and robust worship

team, we're having to get up to speed quickly. But the interest even among non-believer friends is so encouraging that we feel this was a church waiting to happen. Its been a blessing for us in ways we never anticipated. Including Charles whose answer to the question, "why me?" was "because you're all I've got right now."

(Thank you, Carlitos.)

### Continuing (worsening) health care crisis.

In conversations over the past year the critical state of health care in this city, if not the country, is a constant refrain. Although there is a state-of-the-art hospital in Managua, the poor are not able to afford either the transportation up there or the fees for private care.

Just this week, we experienced first-hand how dangerous the situation is for the average Granadino. Stepping out our front door the other day, we were swarmed by frantic neighbors trying to find help for a man whose throat had been slashed by a woman wielding a broken bottle. Rushing him to the local hospital, we found no doctors on

site. Our charge, Jorge, lay on a gurney for three hours, steadily dripping blood onto the floor, holding Charles' hand and begging not to die. Sarah raced around town looking for a doctor to come in and perform the surgery. As it happens, all Granada doctors were in Managua for a conference, leaving a city of 120,000 with no health care. Charles and Eric stepped in as orderlies for Jorge until he was finally wheeled into a "surgery" late in the day. Stopping by the hospital that evening, we found Jorge still alive, but unconscious.

This is by no means an exceptional experience in Nicaragua. If this is the state of health care in one

of the three largest cities in the country, you can well imagine what it is like in the smaller towns and the countryside, where most of the population reside.

So far, the government has welcomed the presence of volunteer medical teams from abroad, including the U.S., so long as they are organized according to government guidelines. "El Puente" plans to offer a primary care facility in the barrio, with visiting medical teams as available. If you are interested in this aspect of our work, please let us know your thoughts. We may be able to work together to save lives, so many of whom needlessly expire every day.



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Carlitos, Sarah, Willa and Banks