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Nicaragua Base News

Adventures in Missions

Charles and Sarah Kaye

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

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Prayer Requests:

◆ For the safety and health of the Awakening team while they work in Granada.

◆ For a Young Life partner club in the US.

◆ Thanks for the improvement in Sarah's elbow since our last letter.

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Awakenings team digging in.

In mid-September, a team of 16 youth (ages 18-27) from AIM's Awakening program arrived to spend nine months in Granada for training and on-site experience. This represents only the second Awakening class offered by AIM, and we're honored to have been chosen from among AIM's many bases to host them. These kids have made a serious commitment to be here, some sacrificing college scholarships to be able to participate in the program. Days are split between classroom training and service in the barrios until Christmas break, followed by six more months of full time service within the community. This team hit the ground running, helping in local orphanages, starting English as a Second Language



The 2008-2009 "Awakening" team at EP

(ESL) classes in the nearby schools and in the barrio, expanding the local soccer league, and helping us launch the new Vida Joven program. They have also initiated a barrio clean up project, which we hope to expand through a 'stewards of the earth' biblical perspective on environment responsibility (like much of the hidden side of Granada, our barrio is blanketed with years of trash). We are most impressed by this class of 2009 Awakening team, and welcome them to Granada for their mission trip.

Young Life (Vida Joven) at El Puente.

This January, in conjunction with Opportunity International, we began evaluating Granada as a site for Young Life (Vida Joven or VJ). In September we welcomed Yenner and Onieda, of VJ Matagalpa, to help us get VJ going at El Puente and other sites in the city. Having been on VJ staff for many years and come through the program themselves, Yenner and Oneida are well trained to make things happen. Heather King, on our AIM staff, has extensive experience with YL in the States and is working with them to establish a VJ Club at El Puente. It

may be the oldest city in Central America, but Granada has a surprisingly young population, with a huge teenage demographic. Young people here battle significant dangers growing up, including rampant substance addiction, sexual abuse in the home, teen (and pre-teen) pregnancy, lack of education, and the allure of gangs, all of which contribute to extreme and chronic poverty. City programs for youth are almost nonexistent. We have helped to establish a steering committee with leaders from the schools, police and local churches to make this a success. Our outreach meetings at EP have grown to over 40 young people in just 3 meetings.

We would love to develop a sister/brother relationship with a US based Young Life club. If you have an affiliation with a Young Life chapter and would like to get involved, please contact us. As a group we have stepped out in faith to get the program going, but we will face hurdles ahead, particularly in financing with limited local resources.



Yenner and Onieda of Vida Joven

Men's rehabilitation through El Puente.



Some of "our" guys at Peniel

grams. Seeing changes in their returning friends, a steady stream of new men show up each week asking for help in turning their lives around. On one recent trip to deliver two new men

The Men's Wednesday and Friday morning bible study and fellowship groups have grown steadily since their inception at El Puente in January. Through attendance at these classes we have also sponsored a number of men and boys at several Christian "restoration" pro-

grams. Seeing changes in their returning friends, a steady stream of new men show up each week asking for help in turning their lives around. On one recent trip to deliver two new men to Peniel, we were forced to ford six feet of raging water in a storm-flooded arroyo, using mules to help pull us all across. That's how desperate many of these men are to change their lives. This includes several former drug dealers as well as kids surviving abuse, homelessness, gangs and attempted

suicides. Our program also seeks to provide fellowship and support to keep them from falling back into their old lives once they return to Granada. We're seeing men from a tough-guy culture acknowledge their brokenness, support and if necessary admonish one another and worship together openly.

All of these centers are under-funded. For example, Hogar Crea, here in Granada, had been operating without food for over a week following a break-in. We, and others, helped out with food and other necessities. This is par for the course. Eventually, we'd like to establish a self sustaining program under stable and professional guidance.



Granada's VJ Team at Basketball Camp



Guys at Hogar Crea with donated food

Member of this summer's medical team returns for 9 months.

Pepe, otherwise known as Baker Nicholaou, has returned to Granada for several months, working closely with the Awakening team. Baker, whose facility with Spanish and great attitude earned him the nickname, (pronounced pep-ay), felt a strong pull to Granada following his week-long visit in July. He is living with the men from the Awakening team, participating in their projects and generally helping us with the busy season we're expecting over the next several months. He has already helped to launch a new English language (ESL) course at El Puente and is getting to know the local youth through his love of fishing, proving that we can use just about any format to engage the local kids. We welcome Baker as a young man of exceptional talents and gifts, and are excited about the dynamic he will add to Granada.



Beloved Granadinos.

Although there are countless interesting and beautiful people here, once in a while we encounter someone so exceptional we wish you could know them. Humberto is a 92 year old one armed shoe shine man. He's always got a smile and time to talk, and we are thankful for his sweet, honest spirit. I think he makes everyone remember to be grateful, because he always manages to be grateful himself.

Kaye Family News.

Banks and Willa have just finished their first year in the local school system. Though they did face teasing as gringos, not all of it light-hearted, they have been resilient and we're hoping these lessons will be valuable later in their lives. Afternoon home schooling has provided a lot of the content they miss in the public system, as we try to keep up with peers in the States. Overall, we're happy with (and proud of) how they have adapted.



Baker Nicholaou, aka Pepe

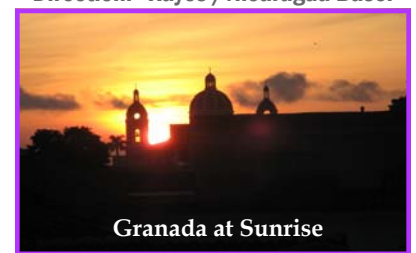
Christmas Greetings

From all of us here, we want to thank you for the support you have provided this year. We could not work here without your help. Your gift to the people of Nicaragua has been deeply appreciated. We hope your families will be blessed and that you will know the grace and power of our Lord this Christmas.



Contributions to the work of Sarah & Charles at the Nicaragua Base may be made through:

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Granada at Sunrise