



El Puente, Granada, Nicaragua

Nicaragua Base News Adventures in Missions Charles and Sarah Kaye

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

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Prayer Requests:

- ◆ *For the growth and work of Vida Joven in Granada.*
- ◆ *For the transformation of the youth here.*
- ◆ *For a second club in the Escudo barrio.*
- ◆ *For the Jicaro Project.*
- ◆ *For the Fun Run in April.*

SPECIAL VIDA JOVEN ISSUE

In this issue, we're highlighting barrio youth program **Club Vida Joven**, now a year and a half old. Through El Puente we provide a safe place for the Club to meet and leadership through Heather King and AIM team members, while we also work to develop local and stateside resources for the Club's continuation.



You may recall that a group of us invited Vida Joven (Young Life) to open its first Granada club in 2008. Yener and Oneyda Lopez, a young Vida Joven couple from Matagalpa, came down to begin the program. They targeted the Santa Rosa barrio near the base, considered one of the worst areas for drug dealing and youth violence. Since that beginning, we have seen amazing changes in the youth of the area. From personal testimonies of change (see next page) to comments from non-Christian friends that they have seen a transformation in the youth culture, the Club has been a phenomenal success, and we want to share some of that inspiring news with you.

The Second Annual Vida Joven 5K Fun Run.

In April of 2009, we held the first-ever fun run in Granada, involving over 200 kids in the venture and raising about \$4000 in funds for the Club. Outside of soccer and baseball, local kids haven't had much involvement in sport and fitness. But the kids loved the race, and we've seen more jogging and fitness in the past year, perhaps as a result. In addition to the important financial contribution to the Club's health, the event expanded Vida Joven's visibility in town and produced greater community support for the program. With this year's Run, we hope to raise sufficient funds to begin a second club in Granada, in a poor barrio which has been waiting patiently for us to bring new hope to their youth. We have decided to jumpstart the process with a commitment to get the Club going through this year's Run proceeds. The runners will be asking me to reach out to our friends back home to sponsor them, so keep an eye out for that announcement in the next couple of weeks.



2009 Fun Run

Youth are finding an alternative to the streets.

One of the greatest problems for youth here is the lack of wholesome activities. With few jobs and sparse athletic or social programs, many teenagers drift into drugs and alcohol, gangs and crime or early pregnancy. Most barrio families have no father at home, and positive role models are just not around. Despite (or due to?) this discouraging environment, we have found that kids are open and eager to explore what the Club has to offer.

From rough beginnings, the Club's young leaders, many with astonishing stories, are guiding others out of the streets and developing Club events several nights a week. Scores of neighborhood kids have found Christ, and siblings and parents are seeing the changes and becoming involved as well. Through these youth, we are seeing a renewal of the barrio community around us.

On the next page is the story of one of those kids: once taking lives, now giving back as he can... meet "Miguel"...

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“Miguel”'s Story:

Before I found myself at Jesus’ feet, life was chaos. The economic situation was bad for my parents. Frustrated and angry, they hit me with anything they could get their hands on. At 10 I ran away, to a world full of HATE, DRUGS and brokenness. I joined a gang, did some crime, which got me 2 years in prison at age 14. Fifteen days after release I got caught again, this time with a longer sentence. By 21 I was desperate. One day I woke up in prison with my heart screaming for liberty. I thought the only way out was by taking my life. About to do it, I felt a strange thing in my heart; it brought me to my knees and I said this prayer “God if you really exist, take me out of here”. I promised I would visit one of his churches if he did. He got me out of that jail 6 months later. No one could believe it because they knew the judge had directed me to serve the entire sentence.

A friend invited me to Young Life Club at El Puente. I didn’t want to go, but I went to keep my end of the bargain with God. The Good Lord used that ministry to transform me. I met Yener, the leader of Young Life in Granada, who eventually invited me to a 4 day retreat in Jinotega. And those 4 days were the start of my new life in CHRIST. This was a new challenge, leaving my worldly ways and giving all my life, my heart and my disposition to our creator. I am grateful to our Lord and Savior that he put one of his ministries in my way, and especially my new brother in Christ, Yener, who was one of the tools that God used to get me out of the darkness.

I’ve finished an electrician’s course and started High School again, and have some side jobs. I am also a leader in Young Life and with the testimony of what Jesus did in my life, I’m helping out other kids, showing them the power of our God.



Paper bead bracelets



Jicaro bracelets



Jicaro boxes

Vida Joven Youth participate in a successful commercial venture.



Making jewelry at El Puente

Without support from outside sources, we have been challenged to develop local means to support the Club. The **Jicaro Project**, where club members are learning to make and sell crafts, has sold over 600 **jicaro craft items** through local shops since last July, providing income to these kids and their families, and funds to the Club. Having successfully established a market for jicaro bracelets, candles, ornaments and boxes in 2009, our goal for 2010 is to develop a second line of products, featuring **paper bead jewelry**. In both product lines, we work with locally found materials to produce crafts attractive to Granada’s well-travelled visitors. The paper bead bracelets, in particular, could provide an easy export to church bazaar, retail or other sales venues in the States. If you have any suggestions, we’d love to hear them.

Currently, we are looking for interns or volunteers to work with us on managing the production process and expanding distribution potential. If you know someone with an interest in this area, we would love to hear from you. The paper bead project was launched by volunteers from Trinity’s medical team last summer, who brought a generous donation of beading supplies from a benefactor in the states. Although we didn’t have a clue about how to use those materials at the time, they have made the new line possible. We are always grateful for the innovative help of our committed friends back home in the States.



Contributions to the work of Sarah & Charles at the Nicaragua Base may be made through:
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6000 Wellspring Trail,
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Direction: Kayes /Nicaragua Base.

Contributions to Entrega may be made through Dan Goodall
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