

# NICARAGUA REPORT

January 2006

## DAY ONE - JANUARY 17

Today we are scheduled to preach at the prison of the omenin Managua. However, due to having to rent a car, Miguel, Barney, Domingo, and me, were 20 minutes late getting to the prison. Since we were not there by 10AM Brother Raul Rodriguez and Brother Ramon Carvalho had to start the service without us. The prison will only let Raul and Ramon, teach but once every 60 days. The time is set and if you miss it, you miss it with no exceptions. This is the rules for every church since some had caused problems and the prison changed the program. We did talk with the Chief of the Prison, but she said we would have to wait until the next meeting in 60 days before I could talk. She did let us give Bibles to 43 ladies who are having studies with Raul and Ramon. As the custom in Nicaragua, the ladies wanted the Bibles signed and since we could not take pictures in the Prison, I had to sign them outside before taking the Bibles into the prison. Raul had each lady sign for her Bible as proof that each received one.

Tomorrow we go house to house teaching the gospel in the morning. The afternoon will be used to look at the property where the new meeting house for Las Torres will be built. We will see about purchasing the materials.

## DAY TWO, JANUARY 18

Our second day started early. Miguel got to the Hotel about 8AM and we met up with Barney and Domingo. The morning was spent talking about the local problems and needs. We then visited a computer shop to see if Barney's notebook computer can be fixed. We are hoping it only needs a new battery. We had to leave the notebook with a promise that they can tell what is wrong with it by tomorrow. However, this is NICA and we know that it could take several days. It is now noon and it is off to the Mall to have lunch in the Food Court of the Mall. Barney, Domingo, and Miguel want Chinese food from Mr. Lee's. After lunch we traveled to Las Torres for a Bible Study and to visit with the brothers there. They also want to show me the lot where they are planning to build a meeting house. We then visited with a lady who wants to sell her small home. It is located on the main street where most of the members live. This home could be made into a nice meeting house for the brethren in Los Torres. She claims she has all the legal papers and is the rightful owner of the property. She was asking \$2,700 US dollars. If the property is legal and it can be put in my name, I have agreed to purchase it and let the church use it for a meeting house. We are to pick up the papers Friday and I will have Lee's Attorney from the factory to look at the papers to see if she is the owner and if it can be sold with a clear title in my name. We get back to the Hotel late and it is now time for Dinner, a hot bath, and time to rest.

## DAY THREE, JANUARY 19

We turned the rental truck in this morning and we now have Lee's truck. Miguel picked me up early and we are off to meet up with 14 preachers who are waiting for us at El Progreso church of Christ.

Those present were: Domingo Cuadr, Isaias Bosque, Harvin Fernandez, Florencio Puerto, Jaime Vasquez, Luis Morera, Alfredo Chee, Boanerges Rugama, Raul Rodriguez, Ramon Caballo, Barney Mejia, Felipe Caballero, Jose Martinez, Isaias Puerto, Miguel, myself, and three young men who are sons of the preachers.

The service started at 10AM with Bro. Jaime giving a short talk and leading several songs and several of the men prayed. Bro. Domingo then gave a talk on "Character" from the Book of James.

A brother and preacher from the coast then spoke. This brother had to travel some 14 hours by bus to get to this meeting. His name is Felipe Caballero and he wanted to meet me and see if there is any way we can travel to his area and help with the preaching of God's word. Bro. Caballero has been working in this area for some 23 years and he has started 9 churches. He states that in all this time, only four men from outside the country of NICA have visited his part of the country. They are a Bro Vernon Hawkins, (2005), Philip Morgan, (2003), Miguel Rosario, and Luis Segouia. (2000). The brother gets no outside help except \$100 a month from the brother Miguel Rosario. He has seven children, ages 11 years to 30 years old. The 30 year old is a daughter who is married. Bro. Caballero, his wife, 6 children, the older daughter and her husband all live in the same small house. He makes his living by farming the land to feed his family. I gave him \$100 and 25 Bibles to take back with him and a promise that I will try to find some small support for him. I also helped with tracts. Domingo has been to this area and he said the only way is to travel by bus, then travel through a lot of jungle by foot and boat. You can fly by small plane into the area from Managua for \$200 round trip per person. Domingo also said this is the one place that even he got sick from drinking the water and eating the food. If we go, we have to be very careful. He also said this is not a very safe place for foreigners and that security would have to be very tight. We should fly in, have all the churches meet in the city at one location, preach, stay the night in the Hotel, and fly out the next morning.

The next speaker was a Brother Florencio Puerto. He is a carpenter by trade. He works with the Conarca Los Fierros church which is in the northern country. He has to travel by bus some two hours each way to work in the city of Nicaragua. From left to right: Raul, Jaime, Jose, Boanerges, Harvin, Barney, Ken, Alfredo, Domingo, and Isaias.

## DAY FOUR, JANUARY 20

It is 7:20AM and Bro. Domingo is calling my room to meet him in the lobby of the Hotel. We have a brief talk about our plans for the days work. He then wanted to go some place for breakfast. I ask why not here at the Hotel? He said he could never afford to eat in a place like that. I did not tell him nor could I but today he was eating here. The cost for his breakfast was \$13.00 which he said would feed his family for several days and he felt very bad about spending that much on one meal for one person.

Miguel picks us up about 9:00AM and we go for a bible study with a man named Jose Luis Castillo. Bro. Domingo has been studying with him for several weeks. He knows that he must obey the gospel but feels is not worthy, as he has a drinking problem. We find him busy at work as he is a carpenter by trade. He was working on a very beautiful piece of furniture. His home was one of the better homes that I have been in. We would say that he was more "middle class". We spent about an hour with him in study. How all men have sinned but that God wants all men everywhere to repent of their sins and become one of his. I explained only one man had lived with no sin and that he was nailed to a tree for the sins of all mankind. We read scripture of where others had become a Christian but then fell away but we also had scripture showing where man was able to be restored by repentance and prayer.

## DAY FIVE, JANUARY 21

Today is a day to rest some. The morning is used for some free time, so I slept in and later had lunch with Lee and Miguel.

Miguel and I will meet up with Domingo and his son Eli quinin Las Torres at 3:00PM. Eliaquin teaches a class for the young people at 4:00PM and Domingo will have a class for the men of Las Torres at 5:30 to 6:30PM.

#### DAY SIX, JANUARY 22

Today is the Lord's Day and I will be preaching at Campo Bruce. Time of service is 10:00AM. On the way we see the Police arrest a young man.

My sermon is taken from Luke 15 and the three parables where there is "rejoicing" in heaven when one sinner changes his heart and life (Luke. 15:10). This young man just became a part of my sermon and where he is heading in life if he does not change his ways.

The service was good and the preaching, in my opinion, was very good.

After the service there is a meeting of the men. A young man by the name of Harling Hermander was the interpreter for me. He is the brother of one of the women who worships at Campo Bruce. We worked with him about three years ago and started a study with him. He now has his own business as a teacher of English.

The brethren at Campo Bruce are in need of a new meeting place. They have been meeting at this place for several years but due to the growth of the area, the landlord wants the building back and has given the brethren notice that they must move in March 2006. The landlord knows that with improvements, he can rent the building for much more than \$60 a month he is getting from the church. The brethren are looking for a place to move to. They would love to have their own building. They have found some land but the cost is \$13,000 and there is no way they could come up with that much money. However, some of the brothers are willing to borrow money as they want to do their part in this project. They are not asking but if some brethren in the States could help, they would be thankful for any thing they can get. They would like to stay in this area as it is a good area and a safe area to work. Also the church is known. We are to look at a building Monday that may be able to be used for a meeting house. The owner is asking \$7,500 for the property. The men asked that we keep them in our prayers as they continue to pray for God's help in locating a meeting house.

After services we load up two trucks and travel to El Progreso to baptize our new brother in Christ, Jose Luis Castillo. He and the brethren from Las Torres will meet us there.

Since this new brother weighed close to 280 pounds, Brother Luis (on the right) will help me baptize the new brother Jose Luis Castillo.

A young 16 year old man from Las Torres also wanted to baptize. His name: Julio Bolano.

#### DAY SEVEN, JANUARY 23

Today Domingo, Barney, and Harvin meet me at the Hotel Miguel will pick us up at 8:30AM. We will spend most of the day getting the materials for building the meeting house for Las Torres. We visit several supply houses near the area of Las Torres. We found two supply houses that we feel gave us the best prices and they will store the materials until they are needed as the brethren would not have a place to safely store them. Some \$2,600.00 was spent for supplies and \$400 was left with the brothers to complete the budget for the building. Almost \$5,000 has been spent on the meeting house, tracts, bibles, food, a printer/copier, and onetime support for a couple of preachers.

#### DAY EIGHT, JANUARY 24

Today is our last day to work together. Miguel will pick me up at 8:00AM and we will go to the American Airlines to pre-check for the flight home Wednesday

We then pick up Domingo and Barney. They make a brief trip to check their e-mail at one of the local Internet Cafe's. We then met a brother Agustin Lopez Lanza to give him the walker. The brother and Domingo were very thankful for the walker.

"Mthas Gracias" to all the brethren in Gainesville from Brother Agustin Lopez Lanza. Arrangements for all the materials for the meeting house have been completed and the balance of the funds was given to Brothers Domingo and Jacinto de Jesus Castillo.

The brothers are to give us receipts for all the work and materials that will be used for the meeting house.

#### DAY NINE, JANUARY 25

Today I return home. Several of the brethren meet me at the Airport. We share hugs and tears and a prayer for the work in Nicaragua and my safe return to the States.







