

2016 Review & Welcome Home...

Thank you so much to all who go with us and all who send us! It has been another amazing week in Nicaragua and I am blessed to present you with these summary results as our field team has just returned home - welcome home everyone!

Welcome Home

With sincere thanks to each and every person who traveled to Las Sabanas with us this year, welcome home! We are blessed once again to have served in His mission field, for His good, pleasing and perfect will.

This was my ninth year serving in Nicaragua and I hope and pray the Lord will bless all my years ahead to continue serving as long as He should allow.



How can we let God be God?



many people, we stepped outside of our our comfort zone and capabilities this year, to find in the most substantial way, that God is God. We found that prayer is effective and that that we have been designed to find our completeness and fulfillment in the firm foundation that is the truth and hope of Jesus Christ - in faith fulfilled.

At church today, the sermon challenged, "can we let God be God?". I considered this and especially, **how** can we let God be God? How would we ever know from a position of convenience, comfort and having everything "under control"?

If one does not step outside of their control, outside of their means, outside of their capabilities, outside of their resources and outside of their comfort zone, how would they ever know about letting God be God?

If we truly want to find trust and faith in letting God be God, we have to find ourselves outside of our own comfort and capabilities. In so many ways and with so

Thus, by their fruit you will recognize them. - Matthew 7:20

What good is it, my brothers, if someone says he has faith but does not have works? - James 2:14

Ever-Improving Logistics

Every year we take the opportunity to learn what worked, didn't work and what we can do better. This is the process improvement method of PDAC (plan, do, check, act).

Always adaptable, always flexible and always improving. We tried some different things with our field schedule and continued to learn. Over the years we have established a few defined and written job descriptions that have really improved our operational efficiency. These include Field Administrator (James), Team Coordinator (Ernie) and Maintenance (Dan and Beau this year).

I am considering four additional positions to serve for a longer term (probably 3 yrs. or more for consistency) including: Fundraising, Materials Manager, Travel Coordinator and Marketing/Communications Coordinator.



Patient and polite in very long lines

Seeking consistency



I shared with our field team at the mission home my hope and desire for consistency in people and funding.

To accomplish what we do in three days of field operations requires significant planning, logistics, people and material requirements all on the foundation of sincere prayer and God's grace.

We have been very blessed to see more and more consistency in our team membership and leadership for the different ministry areas. I hope for more and more who would consider making Hope for Nicaragua a long-term love.

At the same time, we really need more consistency on the funding side with organizations or individuals who would adopt some aspect of the overall mission financially. A small, medium or large part is less important than the consistency and knowing some aspect will be covered from year to year. The more we can grow our sending team support, the lower we can make the fee for field team members which, in turn, should allow more to participate.

Pray for this year and next

Please be in prayer for strength and guidance for all those who made a decision for Christ this year along with all the seeds that have been planted. Pray specifically for the pastors who will be following up on all of our information cards for those who made a decision.

Also be in prayer over our village and the people we will serve next year. I was able to visit a nearby village with a higher level of poverty and greater needs than where we served this year. After meeting with the mayor and head of the school, it is clear we would be welcomed and needed there. Please pray specifically over San Jose de Cusmapa and that if it would be in the Lord's will, we would get the needed permissions from the required officials to serve there.



Thank you so much...

After a steep hike and climbing the spiral staircase of an observation tower, the view was more beautiful than I had ever expected. There at the top sat a young man with a Bible he had just received from our team and indicating he had recently made a decision for Christ. He chose to do this.

The Holy Spirit was moving and this community was ready for the word of God. So many people including the youth took hold of the message of salvation and many started digging into their Bibles the moment they received them. Thank you to all who prayed ahead for the people's hearts to be ready in Las Sabanas.

In all of our preparations, in all of our prayers... we answered the call to be His hands and feet... to serve the beautiful people of Las Sabanas and, here is what He accomplished through us:

- 2,846 patients through the medical clinic
- 15,235 prescriptions dispensed
- 7 Project Life commitments (serious medical needs requiring surgeries or other major procedures at a hospital)
- 345 dental patients and 628 tooth extractions
- 76 women through cervical cancer screening with 22 positives who received cryotherapy treatment (lives saved!)
- 312 head of cattle, 10 horses, 18 dogs, 20 pigs, 4 donkeys, 2 ox, and 2 mules vaccinated
- 1,216 pairs of eyeglasses distributed
- \$15,000+ in family & baby packs plus 8 tons of rice and beans distributed (4 tons each)
- 1,601 meals prepared in the field
- 1,000 Bibles, 500 Books of John, 1,500+ tracts given (the word of God in the hands and homes of people)
- 558 professions of faith (eternities saved!)

With thanks and blessings,

Eric Paulsen
Team Captain

