

The Water Log

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There is a month long dry season called “Canicula” which usually begins around July 15th in **Nicaragua** and enables the farmers to harvest their first crop and plant a second. It’s also a great time for us to do lots of water projects and get to places normally inaccessible on the poor roads. This year it didn’t happen. We were offered a brief respite while summer guests were here, but little else. In other words, the record **Iowa** rains followed us down. After having our house flooded twice, we feel your pain.

We had an enjoyable and productive time with our 3 visitors. **Michael Glesener** taught a cooking class for 20 adults wanting to learn different recipes and more nutritious ways to cook. He also helped start a feeding center for needy children at the **Condega Christian School**. I lobbied hard for the position of taste tester during the cooking classes, but for some reason I was denied the privilege. Vickie helped with translating and got to enjoy the fruits and flavors of their labor.



Rich Grant and **Earl Ratcliff** worked with Rafael & me to set up 2 of the long awaited **SNAKE** automated chlorination systems. At the first site, it took some good old fashioned sweat and hard work to pack all the equipment and tools up the mountainside where the supply tank is located. The 32,000 gallon tank is fed by a protected spring higher up the mountain and supplies water to the 1,900 people down below in the village of **San Marcos**. The local water committee had been at work days before we arrived constructing a small building that would house the equipment and running an electric line necessary to power it. This was one of our requirements for the project. The other was that they would take an interest in understanding how everything was installed and learn to operate it so it would be *their* water equipment and not ours. I couldn't have been happier with the way David and Pablo



picked up on how things worked and joined us on the decision making during the entire process.

Rafael & Vickie have been teaching English lessons on Friday afternoons at a rural church for the last 6 weeks. It's been a good outreach for them and a way for **Rafael** to perfect his language skills. I've helped a couple of times and taught them some Christian choruses on the guitar, but I prefer working with some of the farmers on improving their yields, which is another side project that we have been dabbling in.



It's been a tough time recently for our missionary friends here in **Estelí**. One had his house broken into and their computers and other items stolen. Another had his pickup swept away by the river currents while attempting to cross during a flash flood. Praise the Lord everyone was rescued from what could have been a much worse situation. We are so thankful for your prayers of protection. Speaking of being thankful, we have a couple of big praises! One is that the annual report for SWIM's non-profit status in Nicaragua was accepted without any problems; the second is that I finally have my official **Nicaragua** residency card and Vickie's paperwork is completed! I know it doesn't sound like much, but after 2 years of paperwork, countless trips to **Managua**, and lots of dollars spent, it's a major accomplishment.

We'll be back in the U.S. during much of September and October, and then return to Nicaragua. There might be a trip to another country thrown in before then. Also remember Earl who will be traveling to **Columbia** on a big project and David Spencer going to **Sudan**. Thanks again for your encouragement and prayers. Without your support, our work would be impossible; without God, it would be meaningless. Blessings,

Greg & Vickie Stout

Greg & Vickie



Proverbs 19:17 He who is kind to the poor lends to the Lord, and He will reward him for what he has done.