

The Water Log

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Since Rafael's and my return from the US, we decided to incorporate a new form of ministry into our work in Nicaragua inspired by Iowa farmers. The coffee time! While distributing food packets awhile back, we encountered gold miners that tunnel deep into the ground looking for tiny specks of the precious metal that



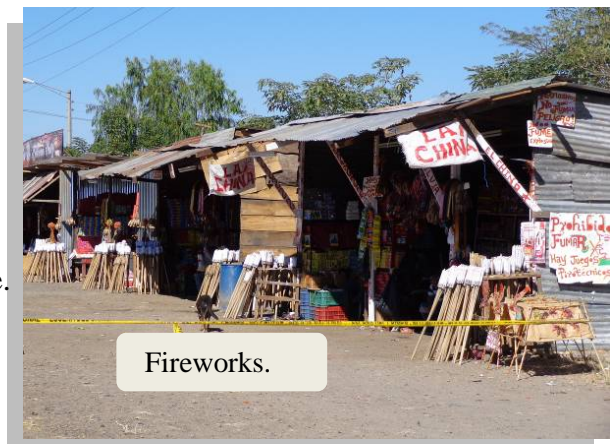
Coffee time

Americans may have left behind years ago when the mines were discovered. We figured they would welcome some refreshments and take time to sit and talk with us about their dangerous work, so the evangelism coffee time idea was born. It was an outstanding success! About 25 gathered with us to share a sweet bread and Coke and listen as we shared the Gospel and prayed with them. They had lots of questions and discussed many things with us openly. Can't wait until the next time!

Our CPU water projects continue at a steady rate of 2 new areas a week. Most of the time we actually train 2 or 3 communities at one site to cut back on travel time, which still involves an average of 7 hours each trip over very bad roads. In between trips (as my body recovers) we have started doing local outreach in different ways. Home repairs, food deliveries, and visits to name a few. We are excited to have other diverse methods to show God's love to others. This might also be something that our visitors can be involved with.

It seems unbelievable that we're wrapping up another year here in Nicaragua. Where does the time go? Most of December and the first week in January are evenings filled with celebrations of some sort. These are excuses for the kids to shoot off fireworks, which tends to get a little old during the hours I like to sleep. School graduations are also in December and we were honored to participate in two of those.

It took 5 months of paperwork and waiting, but we did manage to get a pallet of supplies sent down to us this year. Customs restrictions are making it harder for visitors to bring down suitcases full like in the past, so we tried something different. I'm trusting that we can improve on this process in the future so my blood pressure will stay at a normal number.



Fireworks.

This year's vision was to reach out to the people in the more remote areas on the east coast of Nicaragua. Praise

the Lord, we were able to begin this process with the health department in Bilwi in October. While there, 2 reporters interviewed us and put an article in the National paper about our work. The following week in another city doing a water training session, I was interviewed by 2 TV stations. I'm starting to feel like quite the celebrity. Hopefully, they won't edit out the parts where I gave God all the glory.

One of our goals for next year is to give a more balanced view to our supporters of all that SWIM does in other parts of the world. In the past it was just Vickie and I serving, but now we have gone way beyond that with others doing valuable work in several different countries with amazing results. Sadly, we are the only

ones that have been reporting about how God is blessing the ministry through this newsletter. We hope we can start changing that and include articles from India, Kenya, Uganda, Tanzania, Haiti, and other areas where SWIM team members are going and serving or living there and serving.

May God bless you this Christmas season,



The Paparazzi

Greg & Vickie

Greg & Vickie Stout



Matt 1:21 She will give birth to a son, and you are to give him the name Jesus, because he will save his people from their sins.