

The Waterlog

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Ever since we started serving Jesus in Nicaragua, I've wanted to build a church in a community where they had none. Although we've helped with a couple, the opportunity to be completely involved in the process has never clearly presented itself until now. Several years ago we visited Piedra Larga (Large Rock) to check their water and provide a small group meeting in a home with some Bibles and teaching materials. We returned in January to the village of 1,000 and distributed *Kids Against Hunger* packets to dozens of families. One person asked if we'd ever consider helping them build a church and I said I would pray about it. Well, God handled all the details and the Boender family from Iowa took on the challenge to begin the work.



Part of church building group.

Another very key part was to find the right person to oversee the construction who was willing to use volunteer labor from the community and the USA. The Lord led us to Luis (blue shirt above) and he's been a blessing and joy to work with. The progress is ongoing. The walls should be completed by the time you read this. We still lack a roof, doors, floor, and lights if anyone is inspired to help or contribute. The community has provided meals and hundreds of hours of manual labor as well as expressing their gratitude every day we are there. We are so thrilled at how all of this has come together to glorify God!



Check out the new floor!

The church hasn't been our only work project. We've had three other teams here this year who helped put in a cement floor in a widow's house, did wiring projects at the church we attend and a rehab center, delivered food, had a medical clinic, a teaching seminar,

and completed some work on Rafael's house. It's always encouraging to have them come and serve the Lord with us, bring in needed supplies, and provide a break from our normal routines.

We recently suffered a major heartbreak with a little 11 year old girl named Ariana. Her parents came to us asking for help because a dentist broke a needle off in her mouth 2 years ago while pulling a tooth, and now she was having infection and pain. It so happened that Vickie was having a root canal done, so we took her to our dentist. He said it was too large and too close to several nerves for him to do

Fighting flies & serving food at the dump



Ariana

anything. We had X-rays taken, visited specialists, went to a hospital in Leon, and no one seemed able to help. She was later sent home from school because of hearing loss and serious infection. An answer to prayer came when a US medical team arrived in Nicaragua which included 3 oral surgeons and several dentists. We consulted with them and they were positive they could do the free surgery without any problems. I waltzed back to give the parents the good news that we were finally able to resolve Ariana's situation, only to be met with opposition from them. For some unknown reason, they wouldn't allow us to go ahead and remove the needle. We agonized over this for several days, but finally had to give it over to God as it was out of our control. As Rafael said, "it's like the gospel message, we can't force people to accept it."

And yes, our main focus continues to be water! The need for safe water is still a major concern everywhere. We provide training and equipment to an average of 2 or 3 new areas a week as well as sharing the Good News to all those we encounter. We are so appreciative of all your needed prayers, support, and encouragement we receive! We plan to remodel the Waterlog next issue into an expanded version so we can relate more of what's happening in other areas with other people's viewpoints. Look for the new changes on the SWIM website and Facebook too! Blessings,

Greg & Vickie

Greg & Vickie Stout



2 Chronicles 15:7 But as for you, be strong and do not give up, for your work will be rewarded.