



La Luz de Cristo Ministries

Empalme de Boaco, Nicaragua

www.laluzministries.org

On this issue:

- ❖ *A Word of Praise*
- ❖ *2011 Feeding Program*
- ❖ *Touching Jesus*
- ❖ *Avon Award Presentation*
- ❖ *Spring Break Mission Trip*
- ❖ *Partnership with Samaritan's feet*
- ❖ *July 2011 Mission Trip*
- ❖ *Economic Project*
- ❖ *Looking towards the Future*

La Luz de Cristo Ministries is a 501(c)3 non-profit mission organization that was established in June 2007.

*Our purpose is to show
God's amazing*

"LOVE IN ACTION"

to the people of Empalme de Boaco and surrounding communities in Nicaragua.

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A Word of Praise

Above all, I want to thank God for His abundant provision for our ministry this year. I also want to thank all of you, our partners in ministry, who have supported the work in Empalme even through these tough economic times. It has been through our collective resources that God has allowed us to accomplish so much in 2011, from starting a feeding program to launching an economic project for women.

The church in Empalme continues to grow and is being strengthened each day; in March the congregation "Restauracion en Jesucristo" celebrated the 1st year anniversary of the construction of our church building. Church plants in the nearby communities are being established and our first missionary from Empalme, Roberto Robles, is leading a congregation in the community of Acedades. The Lord has already allowed us to purchase land for a future church there.

Our community health clinic continues to meet the health needs of the population. To date we have over 7,000 patients, many with chronic illnesses such as diabetes, hypertension and asthma, who receive their medications on a monthly basis through our clinic's pharmacy. We continue to seek partnerships with organizations that provide medications to clinics in developing countries.

This year the ministry organized three mission trips to Empalme and over 60 volunteers joined local church members to impact the community for Christ. It has been a blessing seeing how the Lord is transforming Empalme and giving so many His eternal hope. I ask you to continue to pray for our ministry and for the work in the various communities that we serve. May God continue to bless you as you have been a blessing to so many.

In His service,
Beatriz E. Juncadella, MD



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2011 Feeding Program Initiative

In January of this year the ministry partnered with the organization "Bread for the World" and has been providing a complete meal to 100 children at risk for malnutrition. Bread for the world is a Christian organization committed to end hunger by organizing and mobilizing people of faith to advocate against hunger at the various levels of government. They work through churches and established organizations here in the US and around the world to bring food to the hungry. Our ministry learned about this organization through our friendship with Pastor Juan Castillo, a representative of Samaritan's purse in Nicaragua. Pastor Castillo and his wife have been feeding children in Boaco for years now with the help of Bread for the World. The organization provides a soy based mix that can be prepared with different foods. Our local church combines the soy protein mix with rice and serves it daily to our community children. The meal is supplemented with a vitamin enriched drink that tastes like apple cider. The ministry (La Luz de Cristo) provides the rice, oil and salt to cook the meal. The children line up with their plate and cup outside of the church at noon and sit there eating their meal. The women of the church take turn cooking and cleaning up each week as their own children benefit from this wonderful ministry. Please pray that the Lord will continue to provide and that we can increase the number of children we serve.



Touching Jesus through serving others

Our trip to Empalme de Boaco this past February 26-March 5th, 2011 was a blessing not only for the people in Nicaragua but for our entire team. It is amazing how God reveals himself when we obey his leading. He is constantly seeking a deeper relationship with us. This trip allowed many of us to find a deeper meaning to serving. We were able to care for over 500 patients in need of medical care and we filled over 1,500 prescriptions but in the process we were also the recipients of God's "love in action."



One of our team members was showered with words of blessings by an older lady who had been seen in the clinic; despite the language barrier, this lady felt compelled to reciprocate the blessing she had received. There was power from above in her words. Another team member, Matt Hulsman, shared with us how he literally lived the verse "whatever you did to the least of these you did it to me." As

he washed the children's feet and prayed and blessed them he was overwhelmed by emotion; he had touched Jesus. God moved in so many ways in Nicaragua and over 114 people made decisions for Christ that week. Our children's team blessed the lives of hundreds of children as they shared with them three basic truths: "You are special because God created you"; "God loves you and His love endures forever" and "God has plans for your life." It was amazing to see the children's faces light up as

team members picked them up, played and laughed with them. So many of them do not have a reason to laugh in their homes; they are left all day wondering in the streets to fend for themselves. Our vacation Bible school was an opportunity for them to feel special and loved. Our team was amazing, we worked together as if we had known each other all of our lives. There was no complaining or frowns; we worked in harmony and with joy. We experienced a glimpse of heaven.



Avon Award Presented to our Vice President

For the past 10 years Avon Central America has been recognizing women for their lifetime achievement and service with the "Woman of the Year" award. The goal of the award is to honor women who through their involvement in humanitarian projects make a contribution to society. There were more than 35 nominees for the award from all over Central America. This past March 28th 2011 our vice president, Dr. Joliette Juncadella was among the three finalist for the Award "Avon Woman 2010". She came in second place and received \$1,000 to help our organization with its activities. We are thankful to God for this blessing and for the opportunity to share with others the work of La Luz de Cristo Ministries. Congratulations to Dr. Juncadella for her commitment and service.



Spring Break Mission Trip 2011

During this past Spring Break a group of six college and high School students were led by Dr. Don Winters of Thomasville, NC to Empalme de Boaco, Nicaragua. The team joined our local physician Dr. Jessie Castillo and ran medical clinics during the week. They had the opportunity to visit three different nearby communities and provided much needed medical care. The community leaders prepared everything prior to their arrival without



one of the ministry leaders being in the country. They did an excellent job on their own. This shows how much the members of the community have organized themselves and has opened the doors for other teams to do the same without our leadership directly being present in the country. The team cared for hundreds of patients and made lasting friendships. Going on a mission trip to a third world country is definitely a life changing experience that you will never forget.

Partnership with Samaritan's Feet



Our ministry has partnered with Samaritan's Feet, a Christian organization located in Charlotte, NC, whose mission is to help the nearly 300 million people who go without shoes each day, and the more than a million who die each year as a result of preventable foot borne illnesses. The organization does this by washing the feet of those who are barefooted and then placing a brand new pair of shoes in their feet. This is done with the help of thousands of volunteers, churches and organizations in 40 different countries including the United States. It is

through this simple act of humility and servant-leadership, that the volunteers are expressing love, compassion, and sharing the gospel message that brings hope.

La Luz de Cristo Ministries whose purpose is to express "Love in Action" has been blessed by this partnership. This past July our mission team took over 500 pairs of new shoes to Empalme de Boaco and ministered the love of Christ through the washing of feet. We look forward to continue working with Samaritan's feet as we partner together to reach those in need of God's expressive love in Nicaragua.

July 2011 Mission Trip

A team of 39 volunteers participated in our most recent mission trip to Empalme de Boaco this past July 23rd-31st. The trip was unique in that we partnered with the youth group of Alianza Cristiana de Clemmons, who led the vacation Bible school as well as the sports camp. The youth group consisted of 15 teens, their youth pastors Saul and Adriana Salamanca and 3 adult chaperones. They worked for 10 months prior to the trip fundraising over \$15,000 to go. It was amazing to see what the Lord accomplished through these young people and how in the process

God changed each of their lives forever. We were able to accomplish so much during this trip. With the help of local church members, our team was able to wash the feet of over 500 people and place a brand new pair of shoes in their feet. Each person was ministered through prayer in their own language. Many rededicated their lives and over 50 received Jesus as their Savior. Our medical team cared for over 450 patients in the clinic and

distributed over 2,000 prescriptions. Hundreds of children were loved through our VBS and sports camp. All the children were fed daily and we shared with them Biblical truths. Our construction team was able to build a home for an entire family and help two others with a roof. Thanks to all of you who prayed for us and donated items towards the trip.

Praise be to God always!



Economic Project Launched

The Guirila Economic project was launched successfully this past August. Approximately 15 women, all head of households, are working together in this initiative. They currently work in shifts either as producers or as sellers in nearby communities or in the road side stand which offers hot guirilas with cheese and other products to travelers from all over the country as well as locals. Guirilas are a special type of tortillas unique to the area but loved and enjoyed by most Nicaraguans. The project's goal is to provide these women with



a to school. This economic initiative is being led by Dr. Joliette Juncadella, who has a master degree in business administration with concentrations in project development and management from INCAE (Central

American Institute of Business Administration). The women have weekly business

meetings as well as monthly training sessions in kingdom finances, business management and leadership skills. The women decided to name the products "Productos La Mision" or "The Mission Products" because part of the earnings will help the work of the ministry and support the local church. We pray that the Lord continue to bless the work in Empalme de Boaco and continue to open the doors for more opportunities for the community.



Looking Towards the Future

- La Luz de Cristo Ministries continues to seek partnership with Compassion International, a Christian child advocacy ministry whose mission is to release children from spiritual, economic, social and physical poverty and enables them to become responsible, fulfilled Christian adults. Currently Compassion is only working in two cities in Nicaragua but plans to expand their outreach to others in the future. Our leadership has met several times with Mr. William Gutierrez, the Nicaragua Director for Compassion, to discuss the possibility of partnership with our local churches. Compassion leaders have been very optimistic and enthusiastic about opening their outreach to the Boaco region in the future. Please pray that this becomes a reality.
- We continue to look for ways to fund our "Bakery" Economic Project. This project consists of building a bakery to provide work opportunities to many head of households in the community. In addition to creating jobs, the project will also be a source of funds for the ministry, as well as support to our feeding program. Please pray for God's direction and provision for this future project.
- We are asking the Lord to open the doors so we can build a second church in the community of Acedades. This community is about 15 minutes by car from the main community of Empalme de Boaco. Currently the congregation is meeting in small groups in believers homes. Pray for the resources to become available.
- Our next mission trips will be February 11th-19th, 2012 and June 23-30th, 2012. Please contact Susan Baron at Laluzministries@gmail.com for more information.