

His Hands for Nicaragua

Pastor Carlos Baez of Iglesia Pentecostal MI in La Mercedes along with his leadership team, Pastor Abel Duarte, Hipo, and William, are working in Somoto, El Limon, Jalapa, Palacuaguina, Teotecacinte, Wiwili, the Mosquito Coast, and other areas, to bring help and hope to the children and their parents through Un Corazon Para Amar ministry.



February 2019

The Mercy Center located on the farm was built by another partner of Un Corazon Para Amar called The Mercy Kids (www.themercykids.org) and has been up and running since our visit last January.

They are serving the special needs children in Jalapa. The Mercy Center is the only physical therapy and support center of its kind within a two-hour drive.

They currently provide weekly physical therapy for 26 children in the Jalapa area. The progress that these 26 children have made since last year is truly amazing to see. But, that still leaves 250 more children in need of physical therapy and skills training.



Hope for the Hurting

Our trip to Nicaragua was at the beginning of February and what an amazing trip it was! There was some concern about traveling there because of the political instability over the summer. As always, we trust our partners in the countries we serve and this was no different. Pastor Carlos assured us we would be fine. If our partners are willing to be responsible for us while visiting their country, we go. There are always concerns when we travel to the third world countries we serve, but all the more reason to go. They need our help amidst the chaos. I am happy to report we did not have a single issue while we were there and felt completely safe the entire time we were traveling around the country.

Pastor Carlos and his team were so grateful for our visit. As my first trip as the Child Sponsorship Coordinator, I went in with an open heart and mind. It was just the two of us, Jamie Charles and myself. We spent eight days traveling all over the Nicaraguan countryside and into the mountains building relationships with our partners. This is what is beautiful about His Hands Support Ministries. It is all about the relationships and the people we are blessed to serve.

Pastor Carlos' leadership team consists of 3 amazing men who have such a heart for these kids and their families. They have devoted their lives to serving them. Each of them is responsible for different towns in which the families live. They visit them every month to check on the families and deliver food bags.



Love needs no translation.

Spanish is not required to travel with us, but is certainly welcomed! Hipo and William speak English very well, so they helped translate during our interviews. Despite our novice Spanish, we connected and built friendships for a lifetime.

To give you an idea of how spread apart these families are, we spent five days driving to five of the towns.

Jalapa itself is 5 hours from the Managua airport. We spent 8-9 hour days driving and interviewing about 20 families in each community. As you might guess, one week a year is not nearly enough time to interview all 276 families.

The moms of the children expressed so much gratitude that we made the trip to Nicaragua to support them and visit with them. We were overwhelmed with emotions so many times because WE were grateful to be there.

Everyone, no matter who you are or where you are, wants to know the answer to this question: Am I important? Do I matter?

Your donations matter to these people! The work we do answers that question for these families with a resounding YES!

We understand that not everyone can go and be face-to-face with these beautiful people, but if you can, I would love to have you come with me.

I get to see my sponsored child every year! What a gift!!!

\$25 a month may not seem like a big deal to you, but to them, it's everything.



The moms of these children need your help!

One mom learned all she could from a physical therapist from the Mercy Center and works with her daughter, Greschell, at home. Since we saw her last year, she is able to move her head and hands and can eat more now as well. That is life changing for both Greschell and her sweet mom!



NUTRITION

Another amazing take away from our trip was the progress of these children since last year. Because of my passion for nutrition, Pastor Carlos asked for my input on the food included in the bags last year. Since our trip last year, he has removed the 5lb. bag of sugar and includes more rice, beans, and fresh fruits and veggies grown on the farm in Jalapa.

These children are at a high risk of pneumonia because of aspiration of formula and food. I suggested that for these kids who have difficulty swallowing, to mash foods they have readily available like avocado,

bananas, and plantains to reduce the risk of aspirating and so far, this is working better.

CALL FOR HELP

This is another reason why trained professionals like SLPs with a focus on swallowing are needed in addition to physical therapists and occupational therapists.

The majority of interviews we conducted went something like this:

Does your child need therapy? Yes.

Are they getting what they need? No.

Why? Because it is not available.

Most of the local hospitals and health centers in the small towns have closed. No one offers the therapy we need.

These moms are so willing and desperate for their children to be able to do simple things like hold their head up, feed themselves, and even to walk. Without the skills needed to teach them, they are at a huge disadvantage. They need our help.

250 more children are in need of therapy in some way, shape, or form. Who do you know that can come with us on our next trip? Even if you aren't in the medical field, we need you!



His Hands Support Ministries

We strive to promote unity within the body of Christ and recognize the need for unity in the body of believers who all share the common bond of faith in Jesus Christ and have experienced His saving grace no matter what denomination. We have joined together with our brothers and sisters in impoverished nations to make a difference in the lives of these people. Our purpose is not to start an American work overseas, but to come alongside our brothers and sisters living in poverty to support and encourage them in the work they are already doing.

WHAT DOES A TRIP CONSIST OF?

The purpose of our trip is to interview the children and their parents to verify they are still in the program and update their information. All of the children sponsored and waiting for sponsors on our website have been interviewed.

We meet at centralized locations in the cities and make some house visits for those children that cannot travel. They pick up their bags of food at the same time.

We stay at Cascabel in Somoto and the farm in Jalapa which are Pastor Carlos' secure properties, and a lovely hotel in Wiwili. There are beds, bathrooms, electricity, and warm-ish water. We get three meals a day and lots of delicious Nicaraguan coffee. You fall asleep in pitch black darkness and wake to the sounds of chickens, birds, and a parrot.

YOU'RE INVITED!

Speaking of our next trip! After speaking with our partners, they would

love for us to come twice a year. With the amount of children in their program and the distances between them, one week is not long enough to interview everyone! We are looking at a trip in mid-August. If you are interested, please let me know!

PRAYER REQUESTS

Please pray for Pastor Carlos' mom who was very sick when we were there. I am happy to report she has gotten better since our visit.

Pray for Pastor Carlos and the work of his ministry.

Also, pray for our partners in Haiti and for their country in turmoil right now!

TOGETHER

Together we are changing these families' lives. Thank you for partnering with us by sponsoring the kids of Un Corazon Para Amar!

Thank you for your heart for Nicaragua and God's precious children.

May God bless you!