



June 2008

Project H.O.P.E.
417-886-HOPE (4673)
417-886-4676 fax
1419 S. Enterprise Ave.
Springfield, MO 65804
pjhope.org
Hours: M-F 9 a.m. — 3 p.m.

**“To Serve and meet the needs of impoverished people,
while sharing with them the Good News of Jesus Christ.”**

From the Home Front

Kim Bradley



There really is no perfect way for me to express the feelings I have for our many volunteers, especially since I am severely challenged when it comes to written communication; but I will give it a shot.

First of all I want to recognize those of you who volunteer on a regular basis in the Project H.O.P.E. office each week. We simply could not exist in our current state of growth without your help. Each one of you, at some time, must think to yourself, “What did I get myself into?”. The hours are long and the pay is... well, there is no pay! To top it off, that Bradley guy just talks on the phone all day!

From the man who mows our grass here at the office, to those who volunteer at our two annual fundraisers, (golf tournament in the spring and Pig Roast & Auction in the fall) I want to thank you for your hard work.

To the many short-term missionaries who travel down to Nicaragua each year, leaving their families behind, I genuinely want to express my gratitude. I am still amazed at the number of people who give up their vacation time, not to mention the ever-increasing cost of the trip itself.

In the spring of 1999, the Directors thought it would really be cool if we could do just one construction trip each year. This year alone, Project H.O.P.E. will facilitate nine construction teams! For the most part, it is the short-term, first-time trip that begins to change the heart and mind of the individual toward missions. In the beginning, our trips were all about helping the Nicaraguan people. What I have learned over the years is that the givers truly are the recipients. I have seen first-hand what the Bible tells us, “It is more blessed to give than receive.”

I do not take you for granted. I pray the Lord bless you and multiply your time and resources for your sacrifices.

I sincerely love each and every one of you.

2008 Golf Tournament
Thank you to our
Golfers, Sponsors & Supporters!

We Netted \$12,715

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2009 Projects

Speak For Your Week!
Book Your Team NOW!

**It's never too soon get your group or
church excited about a short-term foreign
mission trip.**

Contact the Project H.O.P.E. Office
(417) 886-4673

Hope For Young Women

By Suzanne Lennard



Wow! I hope I can convey to you at least a glimpse of the sweetness and enthusiasm my daughter Selby and I encountered at the Girls Conference this April at H.O.P.E. Central. Let me begin by saying that there was no problem finding 12 to 15 year old girls who wanted to come and learn of God's plan for their life as young women, both spiritually and sexually. In fact, we had to limit the number to six groups of girls with a mentor from each group from six different churches across Managua. The girls who actually came to the conference came knowing not every girl from their church who wanted to come was able to come. Because these girls understood this, they committed to take the information they had learned back to their friends and teach them as well.

There were many topics that were covered that week; topics such as our identity in Christ, sex education, sexual diseases, boyfriends, personal purity, and marriage. Violetta, a staff member for Tin Roof Foundation, Inc., was the speaker for the conference. She is a Nicaraguan who was educated in the States and is full of fun, enthusiasm, and a passion for sharing God's truth to young women. Rebecca Loge, Administrator of H.O.P.E. Central and full-time volunteer for Project H.O.P.E., took care of the extensive details of the conference; the scheduling, the collecting of literature, materials, and supplies. She did an amazing job! Rebecca, along with her staff and the assistance of her dear friend Ellen Magers, set the stage for an exciting fun-filled week. The conference was organized and thought out, but yet was fun and full of personal touches. There was even a pajama party and movie night under the cabana. (I think that was a personal favorite!) The prayer and encouragement poured into this group was not in vain. These girls were enthusiastically raising their hands for question answer sessions. They were so very appreciative of everything invested in them. It was a blessing for Selby and me to see God working in their lives and play a part in helping support Project H.O.P.E. in this event.

This conference is a starting place to give alternatives to young women, girls, who are all too often becoming unwed mothers with little resources or support. Within the Nicaraguan church, sex is often not talked about. If the topic comes up, it is seen as shameful or dirty. Sadly, young girls, and often Christian girls, are not taught that sex is a beautiful creation designed by God, that it is a blessing for marriage, and that their purity is something to be cherished. With no guidance as young women, these girls very often make poor decisions. When these 12, 13, and 14 year old girls become pregnant at such a tender age, they are faced with a hard life. Typically they are on their own. The fathers usually provide no assistance. Their own parents are caught up in the struggle of feeding and caring for their remaining children and often are unable to help. Unfortunately, Christians in Nicaragua often look down upon these girls and often shun them. They are destined for a life of poverty. It is a cycle that repeats itself in the Nicaraguan culture over and over again.

At the final day of the conference the girls were given an option to make a commitment to purity until marriage. There was no pressure to make these commitments. They were completely voluntary. The girls were given an afternoon to make decisions on their own. Some of the girls were praying by themselves. Others were in groups of other girls praying and talking. Every one of the girls wanted to make a commitment (not half or three quarters, but everyone!) They were supported by their mentors who pledged to pray and meet with them through the year and to being there for them throughout their teenage years. I think the conference had a tremendous impact on the women who came as mentors as well. We could see that they felt a great affection and

responsibility toward their girls. It was a wonderful relationship to see.

It is our prayer that these young women and their mentors can be an encouragement to each other and can make a difference in the lives of their friends and siblings. Thank you for all of your prayers and support for this conference. (I hope there will be a girls conference in 2009!)





Annual
Pig Roast and Auction
Saturday, September 27th
Buena Vista Ranch
\$20 per person—12 & under FREE!

YOU CAN HELP!

If you would like to donate an item or a service to be used in either the live or silent auctions, please contact Stacey Schultz at 886-4673 or Stacey@pjhope.org. Your help would also be appreciated securing and picking up donated items.

If you'd like to help with event logistics or food service, let us know!

2009 Medical Trip Dates

Prayerfully consider serving the Lord by meeting the medical and dental needs of the Nicaraguan people!

ONE Week Only: January 23—31, 2009

To reserve your spot, contact the Project H.O.P.E. office at 886-HOPE (4673) or Stacey@pjhope.org.

Women's Bible Study in Los Castros

By Ellen Magers

On my most recent visit to Nicaragua, I was privileged to attend the Women's Bible Study, facilitated by Rebecca Loge, in Los Castros. I especially enjoyed visiting with some of the women I first met in 2005 and others I have become acquainted with in the years since then. It is so rewarding to see how God has used Project H.O.P.E., the people who have come to work in Nicaragua, and Rebecca in the lives of these ladies. I think we often underestimate the impact "loving in the name of Jesus" has on those with whom we work.



Craft time!

When we arrived, the meeting room was filled with the chatter of ladies and their children. After a wonderful welcome and opening prayer, we opened our Bibles and listened as Rebecca taught a lesson on applying what we learn from the Bible in our lives, in our families, and in our community. She encouraged us to "put feet and action" to what God's Word is teaching.

During the craft time, which typically follows the Bible study, I had the opportunity to talk with several of the ladies about the impact of the Bible study on their lives. Nidia told me that she realizes how much she has changed, since she has regularly studied the Bible. She said she often would be angry, "hold a grudge," be impatient with her children, and only pray when she wanted something from God. She now recognizes and appreciates the many blessings the Lord has given her. She "loves to pray all the time," and she's working on her anger and impatience. She said she knows she can ask God to help her with those things.



L to R: Rebecca Loge, Maria Elena Rivera & Nidia.



Maria Christina and her children.

When I talked with Maria Christina, I was amazed at the change in her! I met her in March of 2005 and was with her when she asked Jesus to be her Savior. She appeared so young, so immature, so in need of love and acceptance. She was a very young mother of two small children. Now, three years later, not only has she matured as a wonderful mother of two growing children, but as a beautiful woman who loves the Lord! She loves coming to Bible study and rarely misses. She is able to find most of the scripture references in the Bible now, and her smile radiates the love of the Lord. She says she has learned how to pray about her needs and how to pray for others. These changes are evidence of God's work in her life...much of that as a result of studying and understanding His Word, because of the weekly Women's Bible Study now available to her.

Focused — Helping Our Neighbors

By Dr. Francisco Hernandez

When I was asked to be a part of the Project H.O.P.E. medical team, I did not really know what to expect. However, helping others was the unfolding of this great experience.

From the very beginning, I heard nothing but nice, kind words of welcome from the U.S. team members. My first obstacle was like going through the tower of Babel, because I did not speak a lot English. The work of the translators, Byron and Samuel, helped me a lot. On the other hand, there was a communication much deeper than just words. We were focused—Nicaraguan and North Americans—to help our neighbors.

During the week, I observed the nobility of Larry White, Team Leader and Project H.O.P.E. Director; the disposition and maternal graciousness of Sherry Edwards; the willingness of the medical professionals to volunteer; the voluntary service of Herman Cortes and Chuck Cook, Project H.O.P.E. Director; the diligence of the dental team, especially Dr. José Cacaes and Rebecca Loge; the well-organized team at the pharmacy; and the camaraderie and persistence of the Project H.O.P.E. Staff. So many played an excellent role in the provision of medical assistance to the poor.

I was able to perceive so many virtues and emotions, beyond the boundaries of each individual volunteering his/her time, doing this beautiful work. All of us took part in this great task and did it with a good spirit, great effort and wonderful organization. By doing this, we have added one more link to the long chain of help for Nicaragua

Helping our neighbors takes personal generosity. I believe we have been obedient to God as His servants.





This is the story of a young boy named Francisco Rivera. Little Chico, as everyone calls him in his community, is an 8-year-old talented boy. If you heard him singing at church for the worship services, you would realize how gifted he is with his harmonious voice. He just loves being part of the choir of the church. However, little Chico is a member of a poor and very humble family. He is one of many child laborers in Nicaragua who have to start working when they are still under age to be able to help support their families.

I recall one time when Project H.O.P.E donated shoes to a church located in Yalaguina, in the north, to be distributed to all the needy people of that community. Of course one of the beneficiaries to receive a pair of shoes was little Chico. He was one of the first ones on the list. It was more than obvious that Chico needed a pair of shoes for he had always been seen at church wearing his one and only old pair of flip flops. He was so lucky because the pair of shoes that he received was a style with good support and sturdy straps. They fit him perfectly.

One day, while we were having our church service, I could see almost everybody staring at Chico. He was just showing off his new shoes as he was making noise with the Velcro support straps. He was so funny taking his shoes on and off!

It was a great joy to me that I was God's instrument to carry all these blessings to all the people from this community and especially to this little boy. We thank God for all the volunteers who lend a hand in one way or another to Project H.O.P.E to fulfill what the Bible tells us in Matthew 25: 35-36.

May God continue to bless you!

—Alejandro Vilchez, Director of Projects for Project H.O.P.E., Inc.



My name is Raquel Cordoba. I am 45 years old. I live with my husband, Eugenio Guido, and my two children. I currently work as a maid to make some money to support my family.

I have no words to express myself to say thanks to the Lord, thanks to the people who helped raise the money, and thanks to all the team members who came down to Nicaragua to help us construct the 10 houses.

I can still remember what my house used to look like. I would say these blessings came directly from heaven. My house was built just exactly at the right moment. My family and I moved into our new house a couple of days ago. That same day it rained for hours. Thank God, my house did not flood this time as it used to throughout the last years.

My family members say we are so lucky for we now live in a palace. My former house was made of plastic, old sheets of zinc, and it had dirt for a floor.



Top: Before; Bottom: After!

Thanks for all the things you have provided to Nicaragua. Please, do not stop here! There are still more homeless people in our communities waiting for a helping hand.



I appreciate all your effort!



Guadalupe is pictured in the doorway of her new home with her two granddaughters.

My name is Guadalupe Lopez Castillo. I am a 46 year old maid. My husband's name is Alberto Ramirez. I am one of the Project H.O.P.E beneficiaries. I am now so glad, because the blessings the Lord has sent to our community in Oro Verde are more than evident.

As I look back on my life, I can remember all the hard times that I had to go through, along with my family. However, even with all my troubles, I am sure of something: The Lord not only listens to our prayers, He also gives us an answer to our requests.

For most of my life I have had to hand wash and iron clothes to make money and be able to raise my children who are now grown. I always remember praying and asking the Lord for a house. This was my daily prayer: "Dear Lord help me be able to get my own house; I know there is nothing impossible for you!"

I now feel as if I won the lottery! I look at my new house and it is just as I asked for. I would compare this like a dream come true. I still ask myself, "When was I going to build a house like this one on my own? Impossible!"

My husband and I would like to encourage Project H.O.P.E to continue building houses for the most needy people in Nicaragua.

Hope, Love, Acceptance Through Jesus!

By Jerson González

Director of Pastoral Training & Outreach, Project H.O.P.E., Inc.

The following report is about an event that a group of us organized. It was held in a popular place in Managua - The Plaza Maya. We got together to take the message to the youth of Nicaragua. Our objective was to present the message of hope to the Nicaraguan youth that we have the opportunity to make a difference in the midst of the current crisis in which we are living; that we as a youth can change the course of our nation, if only we surrender our hearts to Christ; that we should change our bad culture, allowing Christ to do it through us.

We called this event "A Voice for my Nation." We were able to gather more than 2,000 youth, out of which 203 received Jesus Christ as their Savior. There were four different organizations involved in this project – Dinamismo Nicaraguense En Accion (DNA), Convocatoria Juvenil (CJ), Ministerios De Calle, and Project H.O.P.E., Inc.

Our new goal is to gather 50,000 youth this November 29 at an event we will call "Towards A New Culture." We want 50,000 young people in 153 municipalities to be excited about reading the bible. We want to call out to the youth to promote a change for a new culture. We want the evangelistic concerts to promote the value each Nicaraguan youth has in Christ. We want to motivate the young people and Christian leaders to break away from legalism. We want to reach the youth of our country who are depressed, addicted to drugs and alcohol, and destitute. We want to reach them with a message of hope, showing them love, acceptance and respect through Christ.



Praise the Lord, 203 youth came to faith in Jesus Christ!

In Nicaragua 63% of the population are youth. 35.5% of these are youth between the ages of 14 & 17 years, of which 33% are not exceeding in education. Very few finish secondary school and even a smaller amount attend University, nowadays only a privileged few. To this is added a 2.3% increase in poverty in Managua and a 6.1% increase in the central rural

region. Another factor that affects youth is the high index of unemployment that exists in our country. **Only 12 of every 100 college students who manage to graduate obtain an opportunity to work.** Seven out of 10 young people choose to leave the country to look for work. Source: EMNV, the 1 human development in Nicaragua. The PNUD, .FIDEG, the human development in Nicaragua. The PNUD, Nicaraguan Survey of Demography and Health (ENDESA)

These factors have sunk our young people into a state of depression and disappointment and have robbed them of their hope. The majority of our young people think that they do not have a promising future. They believe opportunities will never will arrive for them. They believe our country is of no help.

Through "Towards A New Culture" on November 29 and other events, we want to work together to raise the morale of our youth and to restore their hope. We want to speak to them with one voice to say to them, "Nicaragua is worth it!" We want them to realize youth have power, and the future of our country is in their hands. We want the youth of our nation to realize and believe Christ can bring a radical change to the present culture of Nicaragua, but that change is initiated within each of us by allowing Jesus to control the direction and course of our life.

How will we do this? I do not know, but God has provided in the past, and we know that He will do it. We want to win the Nicaraguan youth with the message of Jesus Christ.

Because we love Christ and we love the Nicaraguan youth and believe that Nicaragua has a brighter future, we are united under one banner – Christ.

(If you are interested in supporting this event with a financial gift, contact Project H.O.P.E. at 886-4673.)



Jerson is pictured on stage with representatives of the three other organizations. He is holding the right side of the Nicaraguan flag.



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Project H.O.P.E. is an interdenominational Christian service organization dedicated to meeting the immediate physical needs of impoverished people, while sharing with them the Good News of Jesus Christ.

Project H.O.P.E.'s Focus:

- Home Construction
- Medical Clinics
- Preschools
- Well-drilling
- Pastoral Trainings
- Evangelism & Bible Study
- Social Programs — *Furia Santa*
- Abstinence Programs for Youth

Other Ongoing Financial Needs:

- Payroll for Nicaraguan Staff & Intern
- Operational Expenses at H.O.P.E. Central
- Vehicle & Mechanical Equipment Maintenance

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Thank you for your support!*

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Please let us know of any change of address so we can keep in contact with you!