



NICARAGUA CHRISTIAN SCHOOL COLEGIO CRISTIANO EN NICARAGUA

Perspective | Jeffrey McCrary

Anyone who enjoyed a stable childhood with a loving family realizes the importance of the school as a pillar in the process of growing up. The role of a school extends far beyond learning and reading; it has a role in the spiritual and emotional health of the adult that each child becomes, even more when so many disruptions are part of the family experience. Families who migrate are often responding to disruptions in their family life and moving is, for the children, yet another huge disruption which can make growing up very difficult.



Graduation

Migrants in humble circumstances are all too often received with indifference or hostility, as one humble family learned over two thousand years ago. The difficult experiences of the parents and children of Nicaragua Christian School parallel those lived by Jesus and his humble family. It is hard to overstate the difficulties facing the parents and children of Nicaragua Christian School. All the families are migrants from what must have been even worse situations, into a problematic, impoverished neighborhood. What were cotton fields during the economic boom of the 1960's and 1970's had long since become useless, contaminated brownfields which no one wanted. A free trade zone with factories making clothing and other articles for the US consumer markets has recently developed along the margins of this abandoned farmland, and the fields have been filled with low-cost housing. Tens of thousands of the poorest Nicaraguans have migrated into this area in search of a better life, some of them poor, others poorer. Several sections of the neighborhood face dismal circumstances, in which people live under nothing more than a plastic sheet suspended by sticks. The factories employ unskilled and semiskilled workers and provide dismal wages, which nonetheless far exceed any other economic opportunity for most people in the area.

It is precisely this impoverished neighborhood that Nicaragua Christian School serves as an anchor in many ways beyond an ordinary school. The success of Nicaragua Christian School is easily noted by the way the community is involved there. Parents of the students clean, cut grass, and perform all kinds of chores at the school. School events are always well attended by family members, who take an exceptional interest in their children. The students are particularly orderly and respectful, in contrast to other schools in Nicaragua. Sundays, the auditorium is ringing with songs from a church service, attended by many families in the neighborhood. Local sporting events and community meetings are often held on the campus, bringing the school to the larger community in the neighborhood.

The students and the school have won a few notable awards for scholastic activity, too. But, the best awards are children who grow into adults whose despair is replaced by hope and faith. A strong education under the guidance of principled, well-qualified teachers in a program that emphasizes Christian values is a great attraction to the parents throughout the neighborhood. Mayors, government ministers, and even members of the National Assembly have often visited the school, but the school's teachers and administrators are clear that the most important people at this school are the parents and children of this poor neighborhood.

Every person associated with Nicaragua Christian School is aware that someone gave from their savings to provide books, salaries, electricity, and buildings. The good will demonstrated by so many from afar is sensed by the parents who respond willingly by helping in all kinds of ways, as they can. Not everyone who donates has the opportunity to visit Nicaragua Christian School, but those who do can confirm that gratitude and love abound among the students and families of the school. The school has become an important pillar for their fragile existence in a new neighborhood, as they seek to create a more stable life for their families a day at a time.



So good to be with friends!

Growth | Greg and Tammie Waldron

*"Joy to the world the Lord has come,
Let Earth receive her King,
Let every heart prepare Him room,
And Heaven and nature sing."*

These are the words that come to mind as we think back to our visit to Nicaragua Christian School earlier this month. Although, sadly, this song is usually only sung this time of year, the words ring true when describing our brothers and



sisters in Christ who work and serve daily at the school and church in León. The Lord reigns in the hearts of each of these special men and women. We watched as they taught the children reading and writing, but the most important thing we witnessed was how they were preparing each child's heart for Jesus. It was apparent how much they love each child and care about their futures both here and in eternity.

What a blessing we experienced as we participated in the ending celebration of their school year, from end of school parties with piñatas and games to Kindergarten and Elementary graduations. The love of family and school radiated throughout. In the midst of all the celebration, Jesus was always in the forefront, from prayer in the school to scripture readings to devotionals held before every event. It was amazing and refreshing.

Every parent of every child who attends the school is visited by someone from the church and the school and they are asked about setting up a Bible study. While we were there we visited four families and participated in two Bible studies. We sat in plastic lawn chairs on the side of the street and listened as one of the ministers from the church told them about Jesus and the gift of salvation. It was wonderful! The church is growing in León.

How joyful it is to see our King received! What a blessing it was to be with other Christians in León and at Nicaragua Christian School. Let us make room in our hearts for Him, Our King.

Wow! Just Wow! | James Bracken

Our visit to Nicaragua this year was thrilling. We could see the growth of the school in new buildings, new students and renewed spiritual focus. The mood on campus was filled with excitement as graduation drew closer. There were many activities we were able to participate in and observe. Some of the more notable were the new chorus group that they have on campus. They sang the Nicaragua National Anthem beautifully as well as many other songs a cappella. The school also has a few exceptional traditional dancers that performed in their traditional dresses. These activities were such a treat for us to be a part of. We watched with joy to see kids attending the sewing classes being held there in the afternoons and the overwhelming support of the parents who participate in cleaning the campus after school each day. We just can't say enough about the good work that God is doing at Nicaragua Christian School. One notable difference is the many men serving on campus. Sandra the new Director has done a great job bringing in men to work with and be an example for the many young boys on campus. We were able to speak with the campus minister for a few hours and saw in him a strong desire to impart the knowledge of God and share God's love with our kids at NCS.

New Student Sponsorship Opportunities

Children's lives are being impacted to give them a future here on this earth and much more importantly, a future with our Heavenly Father. Nearly 100 children are in need of a sponsor for school that begins in just a couple of months. You can choose to sponsor a child or just make a general contribution. To make a donation today please contact Jan Edwards at 888-670-4471 or jan.edwards@nicaraguachristian.org.



Contact Us:
888.670.4471

contact@nicaraguachristian.org

If you would like to make a tax-deductible contribution to sponsor a child or towards the building fund, please contact us or visit us on the web at www.nicaraguachristian.org.



NICARAGUA CHRISTIAN SCHOOL
COLEGIO CRISTIANO EN NICARAGUA

Nicaragua Christian School
1490 Campbell Street
Jackson, TN 38305

This newsletter is also available electronically. If you would like to receive this newsletter in your email inbox please send us your email address or signup at www.nicaraguachristian.org.