



Providing a Christian education today and a hope for tomorrow...

Nicaragua | Marie Bentley

I spent March second through the ninth in Nicaragua. It was an amazing week. I went with my dad [John Bentley], Mr. David McCrary and Mr. Tim Agee. Mr. McCrary and Mr. Agee went to meet with the different churches and to hire a preacher for a new church at the school. My dad went to try to set up Internet and other things for the Bracken Family and Summer Grizzell. My purpose in going was to bless the children at and around the school with art projects and one-on-one time.

Wednesday, we left the Campbell Street church building at about 3:00 a.m. We arrived at Nicaragua Christian School at about 5:00 p.m. That night me, Summer, Mrs. Kim, Kora, and Jaden went to a neighborhood next to the school. We walked all through the streets, and everywhere we went, people greeted us. One of the boys that goes to the school invited us into his home. His mother gave all of us a chair to sit in, and we tried to talk to her in Spanish. She had a husband and at least four, if not five children. They all lived in a home the size of my bedroom. They had so little, but seemed perfectly satisfied, if not proud, of what they had.

Thursday, Friday, Monday, and Tuesday, I helped with the school. I taught art to several of the classes, did P.E. with them almost every morning, helped serve lunch every day, played with the kids at recess and after school, and did anything else they gave me to do. All the children are adorable, and they all want to play with the American visitors. School let out at about noon, and I did something different every afternoon. We got to know the new preacher and his family Monday afternoon. Tuesday Afternoon, we went to the neighborhood again, and this time we did crafts with all the kids. Thursday and Friday I went with The Brackens to the Market and to the beach. Also Friday afternoon, Summer's friends Lindsey and Kristin came to visit Summer.

That Saturday, we all piled into the rental car and the Brackens' truck and went to El Ojoche. We went because Mr. McCrary was going to meet



with the preacher, and we were going to serve the children ice cream and spend time with them. It is the poorest place I've ever been. Poorer than any place I'd seen in Nicaragua, and it was poorer than any place I'd seen in Mexico. There are about seven families living in this village, but there were about thirty children. Their only means of transportation is walking, horseback, or a bus that comes to the village twice a day. I never saw a glass window or any sign of electricity besides a radio someone was playing. They had three or four water pumps that supplied the whole village with water, and almost everything I saw was handmade. Mr. Agee said that it was probably the first time the children had ever had ice cream.



Sunday we all went to a little church in Quezelguaque. Everything was in Spanish, but it didn't matter. The service lasted about two and a half hours, but Mrs. Kim said it was much shorter than usual. After lunch, we walk around the neighborhood next to the school again and we interviewed families about how Nicaragua Christian School had helped them. I ended up just playing with all the kids while the adults were involved in the interviews.

The children at Nicaragua Christian School are very blessed to be there. Getting an education is their only hope for not living in poverty. These children are the poorest of the poor and without our support; they would not be able to afford school. I still wish I could be there now with all the people. I am very blessed I was able to go.

Sponsorships Available Now

Each year more children join NCS. If you would like to sponsor a child you can for \$30 per month, \$360 per year. This covers everything a child needs to attend school including their uniform, lunches, and school supplies.



Jackson Christian School Visits NCS for Spring Break

I am knocked to the dusty ground with a sudden, great force. The next moment there are figures standing over me blocking the warm sunshine, and I peek through my squinted eyes. I see several brown faces in a circle around me shrieking with laughter. As I lie there on the ground, I cannot help but to burst out laughing. The children pull me to my feet and dust off my clothes. Before they finish I take off sprinting through the school yard, and they chase me barely able to run for their extreme laughter. They do not care that my skin does not match theirs, that my hair is a mess, and that my dust-covered tee shirt and shorts neither match nor make a fashion statement. They do not even mind that we cannot have a successful conversation. Striving to spend time with me, we play games, take pictures, and attempt conversation throughout every moment we are together. Every goodbye is heart-wrenching. These children truly show me the meaning of love, but not just any love, God's love. It is indescribable; it is perfection.



-Katie Allen, Senior

12 Students, 4 Sponsors, 15 Gallons of Paint, 22 Yards of Concrete, and 1 Blessed Week



New Preacher Hired to Serve with NCS

In Early March, Sergio and Deysi Salazar were hired to work with the school children and their families. We truly believe they were a Godsend. After working with an American supported group in Jinotega, Deysi's mother became ill and they decided to return to their hometown of Leon. Sergio was planning to work with his father but they believed that God would open doors for them to continue in ministry. They heard about the school from their American contact's son, someone James Bracken met in October at the mission workshop at Harding.

Sergio and Deysi come to us highly qualified. They both grew up in one of the largest congregations in Nicaragua. Sergio worked as a youth minister. Both Sergio and Deysi attended the preaching school in Honduras. Deysi also has a pharmacy degree and a degree in education technology. Since being hired, they have been very active with the families of the school and the neighborhood children.

They have had many youth activities and a youth rally. The first Sunday in April they held their first church service at the school and Summer Grizzell taught the children's class which had 21 in attendance. We are very excited to have Sergio and Deysi working with us and we pray they will have many years in God's service.

Contact Us:

731.427.9511

contact@nicaraguachristian.org

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



NICARAGUA CHRISTIAN SCHOOL
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Nicaragua Christian School
c/o Campbell Street church of Christ
1490 Campbell Street
Jackson, TN 38305