



Sergio with campers

A Special Report on the REPS challenge trip

This year we began a new group of young leaders, who will be in an Intensive Course of Training (REPS). The group that leads this course invited me on their challenge mission to the little town of Yali, Nicaragua. I accepted the invitation because I remember a promise I made, that any call that God would make to me I will answer. I did not know the date of this trip, but I thought that it would be around the end of the two-year course. But to my surprise the mission was in the beginning of the course, on April 2, 2007.

Why was it difficult for me to go then? At the farm for the Easter Camp, I was given many duties to accomplish. At the same time that week, the binding contract for the "Young Life" house in León, where I live and minister, expired. The owners of the house wanted to evict us, the eight people who live there.

A week before the trip I gave up and told God, "If you want us to be in León, please give us what we are missing."

I had to repair some damage to the house, in order to fulfill the contract so that it would be the same as it was when it was given to "Young Life," pay some pending bills, and there were some other activities that needed my attention in León, Nicaragua. We looked for another place to live, but still we were without a place to call home. The situation that we were in was very unstable, and stressful. A week before the trip I gave up and told God, "If you want us to be in León, please give us what we are missing," which was a place to live with a big enough space for the group activities, and also for the group leaders who would be living there. Also, an affordable rent, and a good location close to where we were before. By the grace of God, two days later we were signing a contract to rent a house to live in; the house was much bigger than the previous one, much less expensive and still close to the previous location.



Leon House Ministry

The day of the mission was upon us, and I had many questions for God, concerning my involvement in this trip. The duty that was given to me was CPR. I was also in charge of the maintenance of the stereo, video, music and the computer in order to make sure that everything worked properly. I had my duties, but I wanted God to tell me the duties that He wanted me to accomplish. One of the activities was to climb a mountain, and we stayed there to sleep overnight. I had to take care of and carry a little girl; she was only 9 months old. The little girl was the daughter of friend, who is one of the leaders of the mission. The leaders of the mission and I had to be up the mountain first in order to put up the tents for everyone. In order for us to get there before everyone else, the guides told us a short cut and said that we would get there two hours before the rest. The sad part was that we got lost. However, the way that the little girl trusted me to take care of her through that dangerous road up the mountain is the same way that I trusted God with our lives. I felt that God was telling me to let the Holy Spirit guide my way up the mountain, and stop trying to do things on my own. The way I was carrying the baby, like a treasure on my hands, is the way God was holding me through that tough terrain. This life lesson continued days later in the camp. Today I understand what God wants, which is that my goals and dreams will be done through the grace of God.

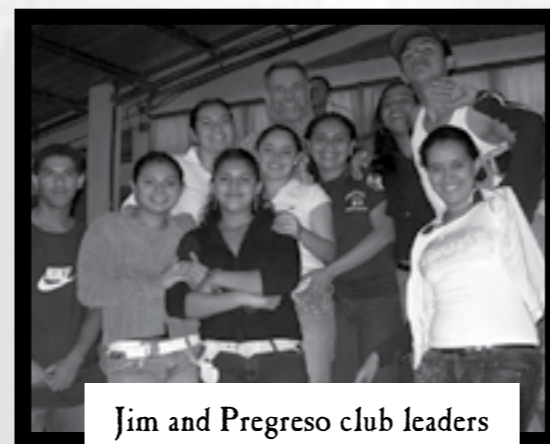
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Address Service Requested

WORK TEAMS VIDA JOVEN NICARAGUA 2007

- MAY 31-JUNE 10 - Second Pres. Knoxville, Lee Butler, Ryan Harding. 30 persons.
- JUNE 2-9 - Orange Park, FL. Tim Roberts. 30-35 persons
- JUNE 8-16- Signal Mt. TN. Owen Stepp. Jack London, TN. 30 persons.
- JUNE 12-22 - Ryan Canode, (Nate Dalke) Managua Team.
- JUNE 16-24 - Kirkmont Pres. OH, Carmen Garrigan
- JUNE 26-JULY 2 - North Minster Presbyterian Church, Cincinnati, OH, Rich Jones. 40 persons
- JUNE 30-JULY 6 - First Pres. Deland, FL, Bruce Hedgepeth, to Esteli. 20 persons.
- JULY 7-14 - First Pres. DeLand, FL, Bruce Hedgepeth La Finca. 15 persons.
- JULY 6-14 - First Pres. Mt. Holly, NJ, Danny Sharpe. 15 persons.
- JULY 13-16 - New kids camp
- JULY 19-22 - Second new kids camp
- JULY 20-28 - Danny Dotson Son servants. 50 people.
- JULY 27-AUG. 3 - First Pres. Church, Norfolk. Jim Wood, Jim Gates. Medical VBS.



Jim and Pregreso club leaders

- AUG. 3-11 - Great Bridge Pres., Chesapeake, VA, Paula Creekmore, Jeff Horton. 40 persons. VBS.
- SEPT. 29-OCT. 6 - First Presbyterian Church, Murfreesboro, TN., Fruitland Park FL, Mary Ellen Kinney. 15 persons.

JEFF GREENWAY HANDLES THE CHALLENGE WELL: Jeff has taken a lion's share of work by handling the logistics and planning for all the workteams.

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Lord's Supper at Easter camp

THE CALL TO SERVICE

THE CALL TO SERVICE IS AT THE HEART OF VIDA JOVEN AND WAS THE THEME OF THE EASTER CAMP.

Mother Teresa said in one of her prayers, "The fruit of love is serving." At the camp were 230 leaders from all the Vida Joven ministries of Nicaragua, with two priests and one pastor invited as speakers.

More creative ideas from Jim, Juan Ramon, Dina and a team of 12 led to many comments of "This is the best camp ever!!!" New ideas became new traditions — with Saturday before Easter having foot-washing and breaking of bread together in the candle-lit gym. Especially moving was the Lord's Supper for those 12 invited to the table, who donned white robe/sheets. After communing they returned to their community groups to wash the feet of and pray for their co-leaders.

EASTER TESTIMONIES

During the testimonies at the end of camp, which more people were eager to give than ever before, many from that group of 12 came forward. Each one stated that they had felt like Judas.

Pedro Perez from San Dionisio

"I am named Pedro, but I felt like Judas."

Then Mario from Esteli

"I guess there were 12 Judases at that table, because the Lord insists so much in calling me, even though I fail Him/ we fail Him, yet we are called by God ... My pride had to bow down. We came close, trustingly, to God's throne, to that immense love that loves me/loves us so much."

God—incidentally the first reflection in Henri Nouwen's book, *Show me the Way*, states-

"Are we like Judas, who was so overcome by his sin that he could not believe in God's mercy any longer and hanged himself, or are we like Peter who returned to his Lord with repentance and cried bitterly for his sins?"

More new and popular events were on Sunday, after the Easter sunrise service with Mauricio's music group up at the baseball field, groups moved to the labyrinth prayer walk, now bounded by healthy little cedar trees planted by many work teams. Lunch was prepared by eight groups of 28 people up on the baseball field — fish fillets charcoal grilled, and it was superb, mirroring Jesus grilling fish for His disciples after His resurrection!



Dina Grilling fish to share



REPS 2007: Miguel Cubas (center)

New REPS—two year training

New REPS (two year training) Team — directed by Ludem Gonzalez, his wife, Claudia; Carlos Ramirez and his wife, Leana Picado, and Dina Cruz. Other former REPS will help teach. The group of 33 beginning in March is chosen by their area directors, and are quite enthusiastic over this new challenge, a 20-hour commitment each week for two years.

The New REPS made their first Missionary Challenge Trip to Yali, a rural area farther north near the Honduras border. "No hotels and fancy restaurants for this group," Carlos stated. "we are going to rough it." This they did for four days during Holy Week, camping and cooking out. Their experience was all planned for by Ludem, Carlos and Team, with other invited leaders, so it was 50 in all who participated.

Ludem's report includes telling about their first day going out to make contact with teens in this area unknown to all the REPS. They even hired a truck to announce a soccer competition game of Vida Joven leaders against the Yali soccer team. Little did they know that the Yali team was very professional, with snappy uniforms and their coach marking their plays on a blackboard. But Ludem wryly comments: "We played harder than ever, and we lost as usual! In all the missionary trips of Reps Vida Joven we have never won at any sport, but the youth enjoy the game and it helps in making contact." They had other games another day, also losing in everything except basketball, but through these contacts there was great excitement and participation in the club they presented the last night, when some gave their testimonies.

The second day's challenge was climbing El Volcan — which is 800 meters and the path is practically vertical. Carlos, Ludem and Henry had climbed it eight days before, and knew it was going to be really tough for some of the REPS. Forty minutes into the climb they had to begin encouraging some who did not want to continue. Carrying all their gear was not easy but they all made it and felt it a great triumph.

Miguel Cubas, one of the Milagros Scholarship Recipients, wrote his impressions:

"During this trip, I really liked the time of making contact and evangelizing. My partner and I were sent to a neighborhood outside town and we felt a little bit of fear, because we did not know anyone. But when we entered the first house, they received us very well, because the people are Christians and between us surged an empathy that unites all Christians — the love of God. I also learned that when you go to a place unknown to you, don't worry, because God's Spirit will direct you and help you know what to say."

POST GRADUATE REPS: Jim Hornsby had another creative idea: He challenged those who have been through the REPS program to enter a "Post-Graduate Program" where he would "teach them all that he has learned from 43 years of ministry." Beginning with the books: Henri Nouwen, *Teach Me the Way*, Robert Coleman, *The Master Plan of Evangelism*; J. Oswald Sanders, *Spiritual Leadership*, and other books on mentoring and personnel management, Jim is happy that 25 are in attendance, even when conflicting with baseball games!



Holman (on right) with campers

THREE SUMMER WORK TEAMS PLANNED FOR ESTELI

by Holman Mendoza

Now we are planning the entire logistics in order to welcome three American mission teams this summer in Esteli, and two at the Young Life farm. (Coordinating with Jeff Greenway, ed.) Please pray for this, too.

We are going to have VBS with the children who live close by garbage dump; it is going to be an exciting time. People there need to have hope and light in their lives. Every time I go to that place it has touched me deeply. I did not understand their need until I went there.

Prayer Requests

by Martha Valle

- **For the marriages of Vida Joven:** that God gives them love every day, to love as they promised on the day of their weddings and so that they can be live examples of the love of God.
- **For the missionary families of Vida Joven** who are in Nicaragua, that God would give them strength and understanding to know which is the area where God is sending them to serve.
 - * Family Greenway
 - * Family Hornsby and
 - * the Family Sharpe who are on a one-year plan to be with us in Nicaragua.
- **For Jim and Sarah** so that God always gives them sanity and protection, and wisdom so that they know how to choose and to delegate the responsibilities of Vida Joven for us, the Nicaraguans.
- **That we, the coordinators,** find ways to live the truth of God in our lives and let us always look for a church to grow spiritually, and to be able to share/give what we know and our knowledge of God.
- **For the new babies in Christ,** so that they have strength and faith, that God is always with them from the day that they accepted God as their Savior.



Martha Valle (second from right) with Jeff and Central Club leaders

- **For the new ministries of Vida Joven/Young Life** in Nicaragua and in the world, so that they find servants who want to be in these new ministries.
- **For the finances of Vida Joven Nicaragua** for ministry and for the finances of the families of Vida Joven/Young Life.

CAN YOU HELP?

Yes, you can help! Here's how:

We want to use your gift according to your intent. The memo portion of your check is the best way to alert us to your intent. By writing "Nicaragua Capital Fund/Farm" on the memo line, your gift will be used for the development of the farm. By labeling your gift "Special Urban Program," you designate your gift to the emergency aid of our volunteers or for other unique ministry needs. All other gifts will provide for the ministry of Jim and Sarah Hornsby.

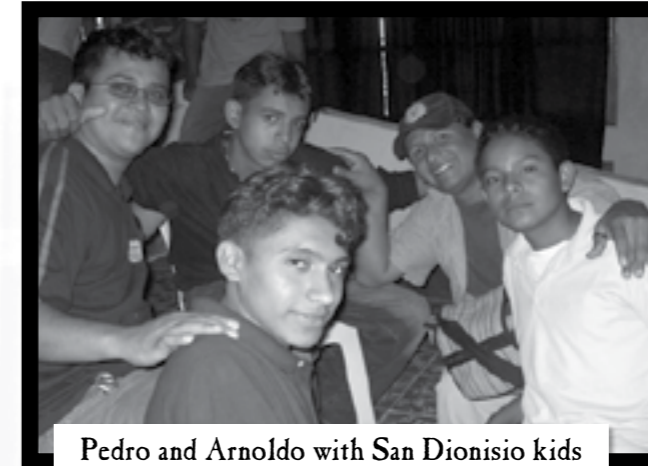
- I will pray regularly for the Hornsbys and our Nicaraguan friends.
- I am contributing to the development of the farm/camp. On the memo line of your check, write X306 Capital Fund/Farm. \$ _____ as a monthly commitment; \$ _____ as a one-time contribution
- I am contributing to the Urban Fund for special projects. On the memo line of your check, write X306 Urban Program. \$ _____ as a monthly commitment; \$ _____ as a one-time contribution
- I am contributing to the personal support of Jim and Sarah Hornsby. On the memo line of your check, write X306. \$ _____ as a monthly commitment; \$ _____ as a one-time contribution

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Checks payable to Young Life are tax deductible. Mail to: Young Life, P.O. Box 520, Colorado Springs, CO 80901. If you are interested in receiving this newsletter via e-mail, please send us your e-mail address, and we'll add you to our list.



Pedro and Arnaldo with San Dionisio kids



Douglas and Narciso Managua Ministry

God's Grace in San Dionisio Prodigal Returns

We have asked permission of this young person to be able to tell about him. His name is Yader Martinez. He was a youth who tried to commit suicide. He took very potent pills that are used to cure beans, they are a very strong poison. Well, he did this after having many problems with alcohol. After having an argument with his mother, he made the decision and took the pills. Later he was taken to Managua to get help, because this poison had destroyed all of his esophagus and stomach, to the point that he had to have emergency surgical intervention in order to help him. Well, in all this process we were helping a lot and praying for him, to the point that before entering the surgery he accepted Jesus as his Savior and decided to repent of what he had done.

From this moment, together with Pedro and me, we decided to give follow-up to this youth. This was eight months ago. After this he came back again to San Dionisio and decided to give his testimony of what had happened to him and how he had been able to accept Christ as his personal Savior. In this point of his life his relationship with his mama has gotten better. Now he desires to keep on growing in his life and then he wants to be able to help other youth, so they will not make the decision to want to kill themselves. We are very content with him and also we believe that the Lord Jesus has taken care of him so that he can be a faithful witness to the greatness of his love. Now he desires to be a leader in the group, besides this we have discovered that he has the talent of painting and we are very excited about this. He is now registered to continue his studies in the third year of high school.

"Now he desires to keep on growing in his life and then he wants to be able to help other youth, so they will not make the decision to want to kill themselves."

S. from Managua, who had been in REPS, but withdrew from Vida Joven for a year, came forward to speak. He said that he had done things he knew were really bad for him, even taking cocaine out of "pure vagrancy" but always the guys mentoring him were around to ask him, to invite him — Douglas and Narciso never let him down. He was without work until two months ago, when he had made the decision to come back to the Lord. Amazingly quickly he found work, and three of his coworkers are Christians, one even giving him *A Purpose-filled Life* which he had read in REPS. S. commented that one of his new friends said: When you want to use a machine, you have to use the manual, and our manual is the Bible.

"He was without work until two months ago, when he had made the decision to come back to the Lord."



Sports Tournament