



HOLMAN AND KARELIA HAVING FUN AT SAN JUAN DEL SUR

HOLMAN MENDOZA DIRECTOR, COORDINATOR OF VJ ESTELI

I came to know Jesus some years ago, maybe eight years. I was invited by a crazy guy there in Esteli. *"Let's go to a place to play basketball,"* and we went. And there we were playing for a time and he said to me, *"Tomorrow I am going to a place for a few days and it is fantastic."* And he brought me here to the Vida Joven camp. I did not know why nor where I was going, but here I met Jesus. It was a marvelous experience.

In my life before coming to this camp, I had serious problems of self-esteem. I felt problems of desperation, and felt I didn't have an identity. When I was in high school I had a very good friend named Mario Davila. I believe I initiated him into 'perdition.' I initiated him into vices, in the things, well, that were negative.

At that time, I had big and serious problems in my family. My brother was a help for me and many times I hit him, and he also hit me back. And there were grave economic problems in my house. There was no reason for living. Later, after this camp where I met Jesus, and my life began to change, I decided to fight to help my family and friends.

And also for myself.

There was a revolution in my life after this camp; I realized that Jesus really loves me intensely and that he is able to fill my heart and that I can come to feel the original Holman, the true Holman whom He created, full of life, and full of strength, and so I decided to struggle/fight in prayer.

First I began by trying to help my brother. There were three years of struggle. And then there was another two years, a good long time, in which I was struggling/fighting for my friend, Mario, who was in the university making a scandal. And then he came to the camp just as I had.

Our Jesus reformed our lives. Now we are in Esteli and I am in charge of Esteli with Mario Davila and with my brother, Ariel Mendoza. We formed a great team and God reformed our lives. And my family has grown grandly in a spiritual way.

Most recently, about three days ago, I was surprised to see my papa reading the Bible in his workshop. And now my family lives with a tremendous unity, and we are together. Jesus reformed our lives, my mama, my brother and mine, and we are all making the effort to be together in harmony.

I recently married a lovely wife, Karelia. And, well, now I have Jesus as my passion, and the passion of my life is helping young people know Christ.



JAVIER, VJ COMMITTEE CHAIR, AND BAND AT SPECIAL EVENT IN SOLINGALPA, WHERE JUAN RAMON IS

COMING UP - THE GROWTH CAMP FOR LEADERS.

By Martha Tinoco

I am praying a lot that God will give us much so that we are able to give more. After that, in December we have two more New Kids camps, where many youth will come to know Jesus - 190 are invited!

We want to take one youth who is handicapped in a wheelchair. He comes to Bible studies and to club. We are organizing so that he can come to camp. He wants to go but has a lot of fear, but we are praying for him and that perfect love will cast out all fear. Please pray for him; his name is Mario.

Address Service Requested
Colorado Springs, CO 80901
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WORKGROUPS 2006

DEC. 30-JAN.: Nancy and Ann Sharpe visiting

JAN. 8-14: Training · Brad Greene and two leaders from VJ Guatemala.

MARCH 10-17 or 19 Christ UMC, Steve Winstead/Carric Brady · Memphis, Tenn.

MARCH 18-27: 2nd Presbyterian Church · Knoxville, Tenn., Lee Butler, 30 pers

MAY 11-21: 10 days, Sam Hale · Cullowhee, N.C.

JUNE 16-25: Barbara Joyce · First Presbyterian · Maitland, Fla.

JUNE 24-JULY 2: Danny Sharpe · First Pres. · Mt Holly, N.J.

JULY 8-15: Bruce Hedgepath · First Pres. · Deland, Fla.

JULY 21-26: Dan Dotson · SON SERVANTS

JULY 29-AUGUST 5: 1st Presbyterian, Norfolk Va. · Jim Wood · MEDICAL · Community Clean Water Project

AUG. 5-13: Jeff Horton · Great Bridge Presbyterian Church · Chesapeake, Va.

2007

Rich Jones · Northminster Pres Church, Cincinnati, Ohio

JULY 6 - 14: Danny Sharpe, First Pres, Mt Holly, N.J.

SUCCESSFUL SPORTS CAMP

by Martha Tinoco

The Basketball Sports Camp was incredible because there were 100 persons participating. Two teams from Managua, two from Matagalpa and two from Jinotega. God awakened in my heart to be praying every moment for these youth, because many of them are not Christians and this type of camp is for contact, and to bring them to a New Kids camp.

To see these youth, their negative attitudes, their bad words, awoke in me the prayer to tell God that these youth as they are, are in His hands, and now they are not of the world. Because they are in the farm/camp, in a place blessed, made holy by God, they are in His hands. So then these kids are of God. I prayed/pray with complete certainty and love for them.

The camp was a success, without problems. All was tranquil. They played all the games very well and Managua won. I felt in my heart to help, with 200 cordobas, my team who came from my neighborhood. In that way I am being a donor also. Sure, it is the same money that I receive from you that enables me to help the youth who are not able to pay even the small amount charged for their camp. This came from me with much love and I feel good. *I receive and I give. Thanks for teaching me that I can give also!*

God Bless You.



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GIVING THANKS FOR YOU

GOD HAS RICHLY BLESSED THE MINISTRY OF VIDA JOVEN IN NICARAGUA - blessing us in maintaining the supply line of faithful and generous donors who keep this outreach to teenagers growing!

We now have 38 VJ Leaders who are Coordinators of the ministry in the 6 cities - 15 are women, 21 are men and that includes 11 couples who have 13 children.

GOD IS WORKING IN MY BARRIO (NEIGHBORHOOD) OF REPARTO SANDINO

by Martha Tinoco

Thank you for your help and love and friendship that you all have given us, and that you have made it possible to work and that the youth of Matagalpa can come to know Jesus in their lives. This year has been difficult for the youth and for me. Satan has attacked the families a lot, and because of this, there have been times of discouragement, anger and sadness. But we always have a great and powerful God who gives us hope and the youth are trusting in God that He will change the situations in their families, economics and physical health.

Even though there have been these problems, the youth have come closer to God and have felt God acting in their lives and have received much love, forgiveness, hope and direction from God. *Always I am saying that where there is suffering there is growth, and that is good.*

The good news is that we are seeing the youth change so that they now have goals and are inspired to serve God. One example is Ramon; the kids call him Chagy. He was a vagrant delinquent who always hung out in the street, fighting, stealing, of bad character with addictions to liquor and drugs. Since he went to his New Kids camp, there has been a process of change. He feels that God keeps calling him to give more of himself, to change, and to make commitments. Now it is he who plays the guitar in my club and for the Bible Studies. I can see the presence of God when he plays the guitar and sings, and he reflects the love of God. He is a great example for others.



OCTOBER BEACH FUN & RETREAT at SAN JUAN DEL SUR - VJ COORDINATORS

TWO INCREDIBLE FOLLOW-UP CAMPS IN SEPTEMBER

By Martha Tinoco

I was in the prayer group and God manifested Himself very much in strengthening and love, enabling us to work with love and passion, with self abandonment for the youth. And God did the work in the youth at camp.

There was a Faith Walk where the youth were blindfolded at night, and they were taken along paths that had obstacles they had to pass, holding onto a rope. Meanwhile two of our VJ leaders spoke to them, one in the encouraging, positive, uplifting words of Scripture as an angel, telling them to seek the good, and the other in the negative, accusing, destructive words of satan. Later they had to walk alone, still blindfolded, until they came to a bonfire where leaders were playing the guitar and singing Christian songs of encouragement. After that someone, a counselor or one of the prayer team, took off the blindfold and prayed for them. *It was incredible that the blindfold that covered their eyes was often wet, full of their many tears. It made such an impact on all who were serving.*

God lives, manifesting Himself in all of us. Jesus is healing, setting free and filling many with love and peace.

And then there were the testimonies that were of forgiveness, of commitment to follow Jesus and of love toward their families and their desire to be better for Christ. *For me the testimonies are strengthening and encouragement and cause me to commit myself to keep on working for Jesus Christ.*



ROSA MARITZA and OMAR HAVING FUN:
Rosa Maritza is coordinator for Progreso where Danilo is (see his testimony inside p. 3)
Omar is coordinator of La Chispa and long-time stable influence for Sabony and "Condor."

MANAGUA: TESTIMONY -- SABONY RIZO

(Editor's note: Sabony is from La Chispa neighborhood in Matagalpa, and studied in the University in Managua.)

Before knowing Christ, my life was a labyrinth and I did not know where to walk. I dedicated myself to study a lot in order to gain the respect of society. At one time I thought that making a lot of money would resolve many needs of my life and of my family's. In a rare moment of despair I began to enter into vices such as smoking, abuse of alcohol and a few times I tried drugs, and I felt even more desperate.

By means of these moments in my life, I was invited to a Vida Joven camp in 1989 and I met Jesus at this time. I made a promise to follow Jesus. From this moment, the process has been long, and sometimes painful, due to all the changes, but I am aware that knowing Him is worth the effort.

The changes in my life that I feel and see have been enormous. Now my desire is not to make money; on the contrary, it is to make God's kingdom greater. Well, God has put into my life the passion to work for Him, and I am here, happy and very satisfied with what I am doing.

God has given me great responsibilities in the ministry. From the beginning He has given me a passion for the ministry in Managua. I met a friend, John Lienhard, 10 years ago, and together we began VJ ministry in Bello Amanecer neighborhood. Now I am in the neighborhood of Waspam-Sur, as coordinator (ed. and founder). But I feel the responsibility for all the ministry of Managua. Not that I want to have authority, but that I love to work for Jesus Christ.

(Editor: Sabony is a University graduate; he has no other job besides part-time work with Vida Joven and is in the REPS two-year training program. He is paid from our general fund and has no donors.)

REYNALDO MOLINARES (CONDOR)

of the Club LA CHISPA, MATAGALPA

I am going to share something more than just my testimony, something that the Lord is telling me that I know will help many and also has helped me.

Well, my life was a little hard, in my childhood I was involved in the vices like some of you all. If they had not invited me to a VIDA JOVEN camp, I would not have experienced what I am going to share of what happened on a certain occasion. One time I was in the house and my mother had to work. She left and said to me, she said, "I will be back in a month." I was without work, and there was not much food in the house, and soon it all was gone because I shared it with my friends.

I came home one day, and there was nothing to eat, and there was only rice in the house. I had come back from church full of joy, I took the pot to the kitchen, put in oil and when I was cleaning the rice, there was no more gas. But I kept on washing the rice, and trying to start the FIRE in the stove, and nothing worked. I thumped the gas cylinder and 'Ping' there was nothing. But an idea came to me to seek the Face of God, and this is what is important, to seek the face of God.

With tears in my eyes, and with joy on my face, I said, "Lord, you are the same yesterday, today and always. I ask, God, that you put your hands in the cylinder (laughs) and that the gas that you are going to put there, Lord, will not finish neither tomorrow nor now, nor day after tomorrow. And that it does not finish until my mother comes. Because I believe in your word, Lord." I stopped crying, wiped the tears, and lit the stove. And for the honor and glory of the Lord, the stove turned on. And I tell you that the day when my mother returned, the gas went out that the Lord gave me.

So I told my mother about the experience that I had. And when I was telling my experience to my mother, and the Holy Spirit was in me so much that I could not stand it and went out into the street sobbing. This is what the Lord does when we humble ourselves before Him. And I am a transformed creature, new in front of Him, and I have the liberty to express what God has done in my life. This is all, Thank you.

(Editor: Condor works at the farm and is a great favorite with the work teams who come. He is an inspiration everywhere he goes. This testimony and others will be in the new VJ VIDEO filmed by Wallace Braud.)

PRAY FOR:

Jim and Sarah Hornsby — stamina and health to complete the work God has given us to do with Vida Joven Nicaragua.

OUR NICARAGUAN STAFF AND LEADERS:

For our couples: Strengthened marriages, financial provision and wisdom:

- Mauricio and Martha, Mauricio Jr. (16 yrs), Isaura (22 yrs) with husband Hilacio and daughter, Laura (3 yrs)
- Manuel and Rosibel, Kevin (11 yrs), Catherin (10 yrs), Oliver (8 yrs)
- Carlos and Leana, 9-year-old Ceci
- Juan and Marbelys, 2-year-old Randal
- Oscar — currently separated from his wife Georgina, and Flavia (3 yrs)
- Pedro and Yessenia — expecting their first baby
- Henry and Marjuri, Henry Jr. (6 yrs), Kevin (3 yrs) - Henry has knots on his spine, currently being tested for cancer. Pray for his healing.
- Luden and Claudia, Luden Jr. (4 yrs)
- David and Ada, Amy (3 yrs)
- Douglas — single father, Carlos (13 yrs), daughter (12 yrs) Has brother, Mario, and cousin, Juan, still in El Modelo prison — they have served two years of 18-year sentence for murder — were falsely accused by members of a former rival gang. Alan Paramo, also with Vida Joven, is due to be released soon from prison — pray for his reorientation into society.

FOR OUR SINGLE STAFF

Two weddings of leaders in December:

- Yener Lopez and Oneyda Tellez
- Harold Amador and Suzi Ruiz

FOR OUR WORK TEAMS

throughout the year — all teams have come back,

some for many times and have formed a base of support, including the stateside committee in Norfolk and Chesapeake, Va.

FOR OUR FARM/CAMP STAFF

— 26 persons permanently working, plus 16 temporary, 30 children of the farm workers — plus 30 additional seasonal coffee pickers.

FOR JEFF AND MARILYN GREENWAY,

Property Young Life staff at Timber Wolf Lake in Michigan who are raising support in come on staff to Nicaragua and for other mature couples to come to work alongside our Nicaraguan leaders.



HAROLD AND SUZI HAVING FUN AT SAN JUAN DEL SUR -- PRE-WEDDING BELLS

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 support of 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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DANILO -- MATAGALPA LEADER OF VJ PROGRESO

I am Danilo. I am from Matagalpa. At the age of 9 years I began life on my own, without the love of my mother. I was raised by my grandmother. My grandmother sent me to work in the street, which I did not like very much. I was raised in the world of the street. It was worse, because I could see the wealth of others. I began with a life of drugs, drugs, drugs. I got into it, I put into my body three different types of drugs — like marijuana, crack, cocaine. It was not easy to know life where there is the air, the sun, the wind, when what I was only seeing in life was pure "shit." But I was a son trying to fill himself with pure "shit" which does not lead anywhere.

When I went to live with one of my sisters, she shut the doors on me, she refused me food. So I went on eating more or less whatever garbage was in the river, for six long months of my life. I began stealing little bags of tomatoes in the market of Guanaca and the people spoke of me, "Here comes the tomato thief." How difficult was my life, living only on water, passing the days from nine to five eating bad little fish fried with tortillas.

Until one day they invited me to a Vida Joven camp, and right away I began to cry. I was happy, but at the same time, I realized that I was as dry as the bad little fish that I was eating. I experienced what was true love. I had been begging for all my needs, because it was my clothing, my shoes that I sold to get drugs. It did not matter to me what the cost, to satisfy my need for drugs. But the most important is that all this hunger and persecution and danger, this suffering was setting me apart for a true love. For without that I would not have known a true love. It was Christ who died on the cross to give me liberty. Without Him I could not have gone ahead. And I give thanks to God that my two mothers were taken from me, because without having taken away my two

mothers, I believe that I would not have known Christ. Thanks be to God. I am very happy to have known Christ. It is not easy, but what I like the most is that all the easy paths lead to death, you know. The difficult path is the most rich path, because at the end we have gained for ourselves, and we are joyful and proud to have been accepted in Christ who lives, not only in me but in each one of you who are here. I thank many of you who are here for being my family and I love and I care for you in Christ.

Editor's Note: Danilo became active in the Progreso club in Matagalpa. He has been in my classes in leadership training two years, so I got to know him well, and his testimony helped me understand why it was hard for him to concentrate and relate to others, but he was definitely studying and praying and giving his life to the Lord more each day. For prayer: Danilo left with another of the club to go 'mojado' (wet back) to the States, but the last we heard he was in trouble with the Mexican immigration. That was about a month ago. This is the reality which our kids and budding leaders experience. There is so much they have to overcome, and our commitment is to BE THERE for them. Rosa Maritza Baca is our coordinator for the Progreso club, and the leaders who work with her, Harold Amador and Yener Lopez, are solid Christians who have that same commitment to Danilo and all the others like him who face the temptations of the streets every day.



CLAUDIA & LUDEM, MAURICIO, DINA (standing in back of truck) HAVING FUN AT SAN JUAN DEL SUR.