

GOOD
NEWS
FROM

N LA VIDA JOVEN NICARAGUA

Second Quarter 2005



Jim & Sarah Hornsby · A.P. 130 Matagalpa, Nicaragua
Phone: 011-505-772-4504 · E-mail: vjoven@ibw.com.ni
Web Page: www.vidajuven.org



MAKING IT TO THE TOP -- EASTER CAMP HIKE

Then in the afternoon was the much awaited concert with Norma Helena Gadea, who Jim calls the best woman vocalist in Nicaragua, and her accompanist, Eduardo Araica, who Jim feels is the top guitarist in Nicaragua. It was a three-hour concert, just fabulous and very well received. Somehow we had 230 folks in camp — there must have been some food multiplication, because we were only expecting 180!

THE BEST OF EASTER CAMP -- EASTER JOY!!!

We had the greatest Easter camp ever. Jim went all out with new ideas and had the kids make a personal symbol and a candle holder out of raw clay. He even bought a potter's wheel to experiment on. Then after a two-hour meditation hike and the *Passion* movie, to a full moon we had a candlelit prayer walk in a labyrinth, outlined in the gym floor — each one put a candle in their candleholder and then as a group walked the labyrinth, they put the candles down. It was so impressively beautiful. **Arnoldo** did an excellent job with this. I loved seeing all the many and creative forms the candleholders took.

After the Easter sunrise service, we had talks and an hour of testimonies. Visiting for the weekend were new friends, David and Nutie Melrose, a missionary couple from Hawaii, who are spending half the year with the Miskito Indians up near the north border on the Rio Coco, near the Atlantic Coast, in Waspam. They were especially eager to see my "waiting to be published" bilingual children's books (even though they aren't in MISKITO yet!) because they have 16 schools along the Rio Coco, going down river toward the Atlantic from Waspam, and want to have libraries in all the schools — or at least books available for the teachers.

BEST WEEK OF OUR LIVES

We can't thank you enough for the best week of our lives, my children are already asking if we are going back. What kind of miracle is that? You have the most wonderful staff and I feel so blessed for having the opportunity to get to know all of them. It is such an inspiration to me to see what God has done with you and Jim (Two little seeds as we say in VBS). The more we fall in love with our Lord the more we realize success in this world is not where it is at. I think it is so important for each of us to find our true calling. I know God has a plan for me and now I am excited to see it unfold — please keep me in your prayers.

*By Laura McInnes,
Orange Park Presbyterian Church, Florida.*

Editor's note: Having that crowd from Jacksonville, Fla., was a special treat for Jim and me; we began Jax Urban Young Life in 1964, and this group had a contingent from RAINES HIGH SCHOOL, one of the areas where we worked then. Two of their teachers, **James Smith and Truitte Moreland**, with their families, are even moving into our old neighborhood of Springfield — moving out the crack houses. God's Truth is marching ON!

Every Kid, Everywhere, For Eternity.



**PAINTING THE
NEW CLINIC:
INAUGURATION
JUNE 28, 2005**



**GREAT IDEA: JUAN RAMON BLANDON, VJ
Missionary Sponsored by Great Bridge**

GREAT IDEAS from GREAT BRIDGE

Our time in Chesapeake at Great Bridge Presbyterian Church would fill up a book, not just a newsletter blurb – but we want to share some of their events for the **MISSION WEEK**, because it is something that could be used in many places:

- 1. FAMILY NIGHT SUPPER** with Latin-Style Celebration – tacos, guacamole and more!
- 2. COFFEE HOUSE** with **LIVE BAND** – including Bongo Bob, the dentist and a DVD presentation of the Great Bridge work team 2004 trip to Nicaragua by Joe Hayes. Couches of many varieties, coffee tables with lamps – and smorgasbord of snacks. Cards with Photos of our Vida Joven staff and their needs were available for persons to select to support their own Nicaragua Missionary. (*LET US KNOW IF YOU WOULD LIKE SAMPLES OF THESE CARDS.*)
- 3. YOUTH WEEKEND CHALLENGE** – more than 25 signed up to walk in the sandals of a Nicaraguan youth. Each committed to:
 - a. **TAKE** only cold showers,
 - b. **EAT** only what a Nicaraguan would eat (that took some imagination),
 - c. **USE** only two changes of clothes in the weekend,
 - d. **WORK** hard at jobs arranged for by getting pledges – e.g. yard work, etc., even working in the rain. **WHAT ENTHUSIASM**, fun and laughter as well as learning, understanding the hardship of others' lives, etc. these kids experienced. They raised about \$17,000!

4. MEN'S GOLF with Jim (rained out) on Saturday morning, and **WOMEN'S TEA** with Sarah – I was **DEEPLY MOVED** by all the detailed loving work put into this time, each table hosted by a lady of the church who decorated and served – with so many special touches. They have a creative 3rd–5th-grade group of girls who danced an amazing worship dance on how wide and deep and high is God's love for us. Those who didn't want to dance made gifts to raffle – and I even won a beautiful blue angel fish that I had to give away – no fish on planes! They even made a **QUILT**, of their own drawings, for me! **WOW!**

5. THREE SERVICES ON SUNDAY
Jim preached and the Horton family gave Minutes for Mission on the hygiene packets they are preparing for their trip this August.

6. SUNDAY LUNCH with the team planning to come.



**MANUEL TRIES OUT THE BUNGEE
CORD EXPERIENCE**

What Paula Creekmore wrote to the Session at Great Bridge after returning from Nicaragua:

"There are 44 lives changed for going. These people will never look at what they do quite the same again. These people will work all the harder, not only for what they have but what they give – to their families, to their church and to missions foreign and domestic, all because they saw Jesus at work in Nicaragua."

WHAT'S NEW THIS SUMMER --- A SHARPE SUMMER STAFF!

Nancy Sharpe of Mt Holly, N.J., came for the second time last summer and served alongside the work teams — a much needed help for us. She wanted to come back and so did FIVE OTHERS! So this summer we have a SUMMER STAFF of all women to pioneer this project! WHERE ARE THE GUYS!?!?! So we welcome:

MEAGAN POOLE · Orange Park, Fla.

NICOLE FORGETTE · LaCrosse, Wis.

CARLY GILLETT · St Andrews, Scotland and Britain

CLAIRE OLIVER · Athens, Ga.

STEPHANIE SARMENTO · California

Nancy wrote us about her experience last summer:
My impressions from Nicaragua ...

Wow! I've never experienced anything so life-changing and meaningful in my lifetime. I've never felt so sure that I was in God's will doing exactly what He wanted when He wanted it. There were so many blessings from this trip. I was blessed to be supported so strongly from my church, friends and family through their generous financial contributions, their thoughtful letters and e-mails, their prayers and their suggestions for learning Spanish.

The relationships I formed with the Nicaraguans were deep and lasting. I was so touched by their hospitality, generosity, their servant attitudes and the large amount of time they gave to me. I felt like one the family very quickly and with little effort on my part. The Nicaraguans were so patient with my Spanish — very willing to teach me or try to understand which verb tense I was groping for. It was such a blessing to be included in all the planning meetings, prayer times, Bible studies and clubs in Reparto Sandino. It was a privilege to be a part of the leadership for those times and to be among such amazing young people who have a real desire for the Lord.

The two campamentos were incredible because God was so present everyday and in all the activities and messages. Christlikeness was everywhere at camp and every servant act gave glory to God. I experienced the power of the Holy Spirit in a new way while in camp and I got to "rest-in-the-Spirit." Not to mention the many lives I saw transformed by the love and grace of God. It was such a blessing to have so many Nicaraguans willing to share their stories and testimonies of what God has done and is doing in their lives. These stories will be in my heart always as a reminder to pray for my Nicas. I loved the new nicknames I received — "Nancite" and "Nancy Nica." I miss the teasing playfulness which is the Nicaraguan way of making friends.



**HERE ARE SOME GUYS! GOING FOR THE CHALLENGE!
Tim, Jesse and Team**

My experience with work groups was challenging and hard. It was neat to see and experience different group dynamics, different ways of worshipping and different types of people in all stages of their walks with the Lord. The work was very hard at times and it was difficult for me to learn a new slew of names and personalities every week. However I absolutely loved the Bible Schools and actually enjoyed working in the medical clinics despite my strong nausea to blood. I was definitely pushed to take leadership in ways I have never done before but God is stretching me.



CHRIS & KARA WITH JUBILEE TEAM

WALLACE & NANCY BRAUD -- CREATE NEW DVD/VIDEO

The film crew of Wallace and Nancy Braud and their two grown children, Hannah and Michael, came to film the different areas and cities where we have clubs as well as camp. They captured the amazing testimonies at the EASTER CAMP, which we had never heard before, from some of our leaders sharing their hearts and vision for ministry. If anyone wants to hear more, the VIDEO/ DVD will be available soon. It will also include updated views of the camp, on-location shots in the neighborhoods. Wallace and Nancy were here at the beginning and did a video then, in 1993. They were amazed and thankful, as are we, for the growth and changes.

Wallace wrote: We can't thank you enough for your hospitality and for the wonderful time that we had during this past week! We already miss being in Nicaragua. Hannah even said it's weird to be back here.

PRAYER REQUESTS:

Pray for WISDOM in several very important staff-related issues, also, for our continued STRENGTH and STAMINA.

PRAY for one or more North American couples to come work alongside our Nicaraguan leaders as a team. Since you have prayed with us, Wallace and Nancy Braud, Jeff and Marilyn Greenway, Dave and Nutie Melrose have come to see ... as Mama used to say, "We'll see!"

There is a WINDOW OF OPPORTUNITY NOW in Nicaragua. Vida Joven has established credibility here through faithful and successful ministry for 16 years. More and more University and community leaders are asking for Vida Joven. We invite you to be a part of this positive response to the needs of youth in Nicaragua to know Jesus Christ in a personal way and to develop into effective leaders for Nicaragua.

*In Exciting Christian Partnership,
Jim & Sarah*

HOW YOU CAN 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 gift; \$ _____ 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 gift; \$ _____ 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 gift; \$ _____ as a one-time contribution

Name _____

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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.

Every Kid, Everywhere, For Eternity.

TESTIMONIES OF VIDA JOVEN:

NARCISO de JESUS DAVILA MENA

I am 23 years old. I am now coordinator of the Neighborhood Bello Amanecer in Managua, and am happy for this.

At the age of four years my papa left us, my three brothers and my mama. He would come back every three months and always came to beat my mama and us, without any reason. My mama suffered very much together with us, in order to feed us. She worked selling platanos in the market, and in this way I grew up with a lot of hate toward my papa and toward all around me.

One day my papa came and I was involved with very well-known gang in the neighborhood called the "PLC" (crazy dogs of the courts) and he hit my mama very hard. She came to my bed very startled and trembling with fear. I got up out of my bed, I was on drugs, and almost killed him with a pipe. But my brother stuck out his hand, and hitting it, I broke his hand. But my desire was to kill my father and I threatened him with death if he came back to hit my mama. And he did not come back for five years. During this time I sold things like puddings and candies in the streets to help my mama and my brothers study. But every day I was more delinquent: gang member, stealing, assaulting, I knifed many enemies and felt that my life had no value and that I did not deserve to live.

At 16 years old they shot me in the leg during a gang fight, and I thought that I would never again be able to walk well nor play basketball. But I kept thinking about how I could get revenge, bought a weapon and spent three months looking for a way to kill the one who shot me. My family was very disillusioned with me, and I wanted to die.

Douglas Bojorge, an ex-gang member invited me to come to a Vida Joven camp; I did not want to go but went because they told me that very pretty girls would be there. I never thought that I would find the greatest love in the world, that my heart needed, and it is Jesus Christ. I cried like a baby and asked forgiveness for myself and my family.

This camp is unforgettable and as a result of this began a relationship with Christ: I prayed every day for my family. I went to a growth camp and there asked for a miracle, that when I got back to my house I would find my mama and my papa in the house, because at that time neither were living in the house. When the camp ended, I came to my house very nervous and trusting in God. Upon entering the porch my mama was there crying, and asking for forgiveness for abandoning me. And I cried because God had given me my desire. But when I entered the living room, behind the door was my papa, crying, and he hugged me and asked my forgiveness. And I could not believe God had done this complete miracle in my life and my family.

Now my mama and my papa are married, my mama is president of the women of the church, my brother is co-pastor of a church and president of the youth group, my sister is in charge of dramas and I am coordinator of Vida Joven in Bello Amanecer. I have been working in Vida Joven for eight years. And I give thanks to God because I can help many youth who identify with my testimony. My desire is that God use me to form leaders with the passion of Christ in their lives. I disciple five youth and there are 13 volunteer leaders who work with me to have club, Bible studies; we meet almost every night of the week.

I study electronic engineering at the National University of Engineering in the second year. E-mail: jdavilamena@yahoo.com.

- MANAGUA: Bello Amanecer Narciso Davila (Birthday: December, 28, 1981).
- REPS 2006 coordinator of Bello Amanecer club, PART-TIME STAFF. Paid stipend from VJ general fund. Studies in University Nacional de Engineering in Electronic Engineering, second year.
- No direct donors. NEEDS: \$100 per month for work with VJ and University scholarship \$50 per month.



LIANA VINET PICADO RUGAMA

April 25, 2005 · I am 28 years old

I work as a missionary in the city of Jinotega.

My life before knowing Christ: I was a person without any hope of love. I believed that love did not exist, that I had no worth. I never had father's love. I did not believe in the love of God; I said that it was a fantasy, that there was none capable of love like they told me that God loved.

I came to know Christ by means of a person who invited me to Vida Joven to a club. I was impressed because in this place they were speaking about the love of God, of this word which did not reach or touch the realities of my life, that had no space in my life. I saw how all the young persons that were in this place reflected the love that they preached about, demonstrating it in their actions. And I was most impressed by a person who is very special for me, who is Jim Hornsby. In him I saw how the love of God is manifested and how He gave it to the youth without any strings attached and how this filled this emptiness that I felt of not having a father.

The changes were flowing to see the love that was manifested to me, I began to feel love inside of me, accepting myself just as I was, loving my family, loving the other persons who were around me. I began to feel that I was a useful person for society. And to believe in this love that God offers me without any selfish interests.

I have two really big examples to follow, and one of them is God who in His great love is always there. The other is Jim, who with his love and patience always is by our side. And today I want to reflect always the love of God and the love of neighbor as God has taught me to do. One part of my work is to prepare 10 young women in the ministry of God.

Thanks and Blessings of God.

- JINOTEGA: Liana Rugama (Birthday: February 24, 1977). Carlos' wife, mother of one daughter, Cecil, birthday Sept. 22, 1996.
- REPS co-founder and coordinator of La Curva club in Jinotega, PART-TIME STAFF. Receives stipend of \$60 per month as women's leader from Carlos' donations.
- Receives no donations. No direct donors. Needs \$100 per month total salary, plus program expenses.



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NOTICIAS — WORK TEAMS 2005:

FEBRUARY 19-27 — Kirkmont Presbyterian Church · OH
Rev. Carmen Garrigan · Dr. William Nahaus · Seven persons
THANK YOU, BECKY FUEGER, for taking on the updating and
improving of our Vida Joven Web site. If you haven't gone there for a
while — look us up! www.vidajoven.org

MARCH 4-11 AND MARCH 11-18 — Christ United Methodist,
Memphis, TN · STEVE WINSTEAD · 29 persons in two teams.
JEFF and MARILYN GREENWAY, Young Life property staff
visited.

MAY 6-15 — TIM GOOLEY, North Palm Beach, FL · 15 persons.
Tim took over PIONEER PLUNGE for Jim at Young Life's Windy
Gap and now is a youth pastor. His son, JESSE, worked with him
on the bungee-cord jump. You've got to see it to believe it!

MAY 8-12 — Gonzalo Duarte, Church from Western Canada with
Habitat in Jinotega · 18 persons · CHRIS and KARA PRINCE from
Murfreesboro, TN, came again to work with the teams! What servant
hearts!

May 29-June 4 — BLAKE ORTMAN led the JUBILEE
PARTNERS team of 10 youth — inspiring those Nicaraguans
working with them with their team unity. Some of the University
graduates who had received scholarships from Jubilee were on hand
to personally thank the team.

JUNE 4-11 — Orange Park Presbyterian Church, Jacksonville, FL.
TIM ROBERTS came back bringing ADAM DONNER of First
Pres. Jax, and a team from RAINES HIGH, 39 persons. They held
the first medical clinic in the new building inaugurated June 26.
MEGAN POOLE, summer staff assisting her own church team.

JUNE 7 — NANCY SHARPE heads summer staff

JUNE 11-19 — First Presbyterian Deland, FL · KATHY
AMBACHTSHEER. This team has come for seven years
to Esteli, and has an incredible partnership. "It's all about
relationships," Kathy said. Their first week was in Esteli,
and the second week they came to the farm. Eighteen team
members alongside 18 Nicas from Esteli, doing everything
together — worshipping and working!

JUNE 17-JULY 30 — SUMMER STAFF COMES

JUNE 17-24 — Signal Mountain Presbyterian · BILL
TAYLOR · 18 persons

JUNE 24-JULY 2 — Barb Joyce First Presbyterian Maitland,
FL · 23 persons WITH Dr. John Pearson, First Presbyterian
Church, Murfreesboro, TN Medical team · 22 persons

JULY 1-4 — First NEW KIDS CAMP

JULY 9-16 — First Presbyterian, Mount Holly, NJ · Danny
Sharpe · 21 persons

JULY 16-19 — Second NEW KIDS CAMP

JULY 22-30 — Son Servants with Danny Dotson · Jay
Martin · 60 persons + five staff

JULY 29-AUGUST 5 — 1st Presbyterian, Norfolk, VA ·
Jim Wood · MEDICAL · 50 persons

AUGUST 5-14 — Great Bridge Presbyterian Church,
Chesapeake, VA · Jeff Horton and Paula Creekmore · 48
persons