



nicaraguan update

Dear Family and Friends,

november 2009

Life in Nicaragua continues on. At the vocational school, we have a lot to be thankful for in the past month. First of all, there is a lot to be said for on-the-job training. It gives students real-life experiences, while at the same time allowing them to critically work through problems with design, timing, and measurement. Over the past few months, the students have been given a great task in on-the-job training in the area of ironwork. The picture shows the beautiful work the students have completed: 150 feet of railing for a historic home in Granada. The owners were gracious enough to trust the students with this job, knowing that it would be a learning process for them.

It is our hope that this project will be the first of many that the young men take on as they lead the vocational school in Los Brasiles and venture into the world of employment for themselves. I am so encouraged to say that this project proved to me that God has brought them a long way from being unsure and unskilled to capable and confident.

Some highlights from the past month at NCA are the student talent show, which the teachers hosted a skit of

“Name that Tune” mixed with a dunk tank. The boys’ soccer team that I had been coaching came to an end. It was a tough season this year, but the guys did well. We finished the season with a teachers vs. the girls and boys teams. The students won in overtime, 4-3.



This past weekend was had the opportunity to join 50 other men from the community to head out for a three day Men's Retreat. A pastor from Northpoint Church in Atlanta came and shared his message with us. It was a great chance to share and catch up with what God is doing in other mens' lives in Nicaragua.

Two weeks ago, we had our first team come to start working on the new location of the vocational school. We have raised about a quarter of the money needed to reach the goal for the school to be open. We have been having a lot more talks with the guys about what their hopes and desires are for being a part of the new school or starting a business.

Prayer requests:

***Empowering and giving a passion to the guys at the shop to be ready for what their future may be- as part of a new school or shop**

***The country and leaders of Nicaragua as there is continued civil unrest**

***Continued support for the new school**

***God's continued direction and passion in my own life**

Thank you for prayerfully remembering me and the work being done in Nicaragua.

In Him,

Joel

I realize that economic times in the states are not so good for many of you, and so I hesitate to mention this, but my support has been coming in very slowly this year and if there is any way that you could help me out financially this year, I would greatly appreciate it. I have always been able to "make it", and I thank you all for your encouragement and support of my work here--both prayerfully and with your gifts. It has always been so good to know that I have a Christian community back at home keeping me in their thoughts and prayers. Thank you again!

