

Bearing Fruit in Nicaragua

"This is to my Father's glory, that you bear much fruit, showing yourselves to be my disciples." John 15:8



Klimt, "Golden Apple Tree"

The New Year has just begun, but we at CrossWay have already been quite busy traveling and bearing exciting new fruit for the Kingdom! We had a 10-member team go to Nicaragua at the end of January to do various ministries. While in Nicaragua, my role was mostly to serve as Air-Traffic Controller, as we had divided our 10-member team into three groups. First, we had two Pastors from Payson, Arizona (Joe Falkner and Allen Mann) doing the heavy lifting of teaching 57 Pastors and their wives at our Pastor's Conference in Masaya, Nicaragua. Rafa Rivas, our coworker in the country, organized the conference, and it went really

well. The issue of Grace versus Works was the primary subject of interest to these pastors. Second, we sent another group up north to Matagalpa (Robert and Ann Messier, Bruce McIntosh, Francisco Caldera, and Pam Palmer). They conducted evangelistic meetings at various schools, preached, and held some informal pastor training courses. Third, we sent Merle Admire to visit a water well drilling company that we are considering using to assist us in drilling a badly needed well in San Benito. The women of this community must walk 6 miles to get safe, clean drinking water. We are hoping to have this well drilled by late March. Read more from Merle on the next page.

Every group did an excellent job, and I'm certain the Lord was pleased by their steps of faith. Keep on reading for more details from other team members. On behalf of everyone, thank you for making this all possible by your prayers and support.



Francisco Caldera translates for Robert Messier.

Dean Chollar

Robert and Ann Messier

This time in Nicaragua, we saw 133 children, 10 teens, and 2 adults put their trust in Christ alone for salvation! We conducted VBS at the Christian School in Matagalpa, as well as at several churches where Bruce and Robert spoke. One Sunday morning at the West Elim Church on the outskirts of Matagalpa, Robert preached 2 Tim. 4:1-8, and it was well-received.

While in Matagalpa, we were able to provide over 600 Bibles to the people. At one church, we were able to show the Jesus Film Children's Edition in Spanish, and even the adults in the congregation enjoyed the movie. Overall, we spoke to almost 700 children this trip.

This trip was very successful, and we are so grateful for all of your help and prayers.



Ann working with the VBS kids.

Bruce McIntosh

On the last trip, I taught pastors how to do Biblical counseling, this time I mostly conducted training sessions on church leadership. In one church, except for the pastor and one man, I was able to speak only to the women who work in the church. It was the week of harvest time, and all of the other men who worked with the pastor were in the fields every day. After the training, the pastor told me how valuable the teaching was, and that he would use my notes to train the rest of his leaders when they returned from the harvest. Fortunately, I had my notes translated into Spanish ahead of time by a dedicated man the Lord placed in my own home church (thank you, Mark!), and I took copies with me to be used as hand-outs. I was also able to preach in a couple of other churches with good responses.



Bruce preaches while Francisco translates.

There is no way for us to know how many prayers you have lifted up in our behalf, but I know there have been many, because you have told us repeatedly. Thank you so much for your faith!

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Merle Admire

Merle Admire, our Regional Director and Missionary, accompanied us on this trip to Nicaragua for the purpose of casing out a location for our next water well drilling. Here is his update:

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My objective on this trip was to lay groundwork for drilling a water well or two in Nicaragua. I visited many possible drilling sites and talked to pastors of local churches in the areas that need water. I was overwhelmed each time I heard the need for a well. We settled on one or two places that have the greatest need. The property we have the most interest in is San Benito, community whose only water is a hand-dug well with a bucket and a rope for getting the water. In some areas of this community, it is about six miles to the well. There is no school within six miles and no church closer than that. I see the opportunity to strongly influence the village of San Benito as we begin the process of drilling the well; we also hope to build a relationship that can bring a school to the community at some point. Families are divided now, as the children live with aunts and uncles closer to the school they attend. We'd like to drill a well and eventually set up a school so families wouldn't be split up and children could study in their own homes.”



The plot in San Benito where we plan to drill the well.

Bob Nicol

Bob Nicol, our Regional Director and Engineer, has been in Kenya, Africa for 3 weeks and has renovated one broken water well. Unfortunately, the well he began drilling in Kenya had too much rock for our drilling rig, and the work stalled temporarily. If we can rent a compressor and air hammer, the work can continue on the well. Look for an update from Bob coming soon, and please pray with us that God might provide a compressor and air hammer which will allow us to drill through the rock in a timely fashion.

The drill team pulling the 150 meter deep well pump at well site in Kenya.



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Medical Clinic Update

We are so excited that our new Medical Clinic in Meki, Ethiopia is finally built! However, there is still much to be done to get it fully up and running . We have to obtain certain supplies and equipment in order to be granted the license to open our clinic; these are found in the medical guideline document of the Ethiopian Ministry of Health. The approximate cost for all of these supplies is 80,000 Birr, or \$4,878. A few of the needed materials are: an examination bed and light, otoscope, relex hammer, sphygmomanometer, stethoscope, autoclave, scale, microscope, centrifuge, sedimentation rack, slides, test tubes, pipettes, basins, thermometers, suturing sets, etc. Please pray with us for God’s provision for these supplies.

Medical Clinic in Meki, Ethiopia.



Overcoming the Fear of Sharing God's Grace

We at CrossWay International strongly emphasize God's grace, and we urge others to do the same (see 2 Tim. 2:1: "Be strong in the grace that is in Christ Jesus"). Simply put, we believe that if a person places their genuine trust in Jesus Christ alone, who died for their sins and then rose again, that this person is guaranteed eternal life and entrance into the eternal kingdom of God as an absolute free gift. Put another way, we believe that a person is saved by grace alone, through faith alone, in Christ alone, apart from their works or efforts. And just as amazing, God promises us that we can never lose this salvation (John 10:28,29)! Jesus says, "I give them eternal life and they will never perish. No one can snatch them out of my hand. My Father, who has given them to me, is greater than all. No one can snatch them out of my Father's hand."

The typical fear that I hear from some believers is that an individual might hear that message and come away with the idea that how we live our life is unimportant to God. If this is truly the message of God's gospel of grace, wouldn't people be encouraged to take unfair advantage or abuse God's grace by continuing to "live as they please?"

These are legitimate questions and concerns. Paul addresses this issue in Romans 6:1-15. In the latter part of Romans 5, Paul emphasizes the absolute free gift aspect of our salvation (Romans 5:15-21). In fact, in these 7 verses, he uses the words "grace," "free," and "gift" 10 times! Then in Romans 6:1,2 he writes: "What shall we say, then? Shall we go on sinning so that grace may increase? By no means! We died to sin; how can we live in it any longer?" Paul's point is clear. Yes, our eternal salvation is an absolute free gift, but aren't we glad that when God saves us, He doesn't leave us in that mess?! He sends His Spirit to reside in our hearts to comfort and guide us in the way we should live. He also corrects us as Hebrews 12:6 says: "because the Lord disciplines the one he loves, and he chastens everyone he accepts as his son."

In other words, we see a huge difference between "entering the Christian life" and "living the Christian life." Or put in a simpler way: Works do not equal Heaven; works equal "thank you" to God. Paul says later (in Romans 11:6) that salvation must be either by grace or by works. It cannot be both. "For if it is by grace, then it is no longer by works, otherwise, grace is no longer grace."

Even after my 39 years of knowing Christ and walking with Him, I still have not fully comprehended the depth and richness of His grace! And I would urge all of us to fearlessly proclaim God's gospel of grace and to make it clear. It is His grace that propels me into the world to share his great love and message of forgiveness. So don't be afraid to share God's rich and matchless grace with those you know! As a friend of mine put it recently, **our eternal salvation is not by the sweat of man but by the blood of Christ.**

Have Cane Will Travel

I'm on the road again—or perhaps I should say in the air again! My travels will include 6 churches and 4 countries in February and March. One highlight already was the privilege of preaching the installation sermon for Milt Johnson who assumed the position of Senior Pastor at Chantilly Bible Church. And while there, I was able to see my young buddy, Luke Holsinger (8), who is relentless in his efforts to help us raise awareness of the needs of our orphans in Sudan. Every visitor to his home is immediately confronted by Luke and his large jar, asking them to donate all their change for the orphans.

On March 15, I leave for Kenya and Ethiopia. In Ethiopia, I'll be firming up our work at our new Medical Clinic in Meki, which will serve a city of 60,000 that has no medical clinic or personnel presently available. And in Kenya, I'll be checking in with our manager of our water well drilling ministry and giving him some direction as well concerning Sudan, which he helps me oversee. I'm excited about visiting each of these countries, but do keep me in your prayers for my stamina!



Dean with Luke Holsinger, left, and friends. Dean is holding Luke's jar for the orphans.

March 2011

Gift Cube is a Hit!

Here at CrossWay International, we're getting great feedback on our newest evangelical tool, the Gift Cube. We've used and had orders for so many Cubes, we're almost ready to order another round! The Gift Cube unfolds in an intriguing way to clearly present the gospel of Christ, and the pictures translate to any language. As you can see from this picture, Dean took it all the way to Nicaragua in January!

See inside for more details on our very fruitful trip to Nicaragua, and if you'd like to order the Gift Cube, visit us at www.gocrossway.org/about/store.



Dean gives the presentation while Rafa Rivas holds the Gift Cube and translates.

Prayers and Praises



Praise for good fruit on the Nicaragua trip!



Pray for a water well compressor needed for wells in Kenya (\$14,000).



Praise for more opportunities to share the gospel in various countries.



Pray for medical supplies and equipment needed for the Medical Clinic in Ethiopia.



Praise for finding our newest CrossWay Coffee flavor, Costa Rican! (www.crosswaycoffee.org)



Pray for Dean's stamina as he travels.