



December 2012

Dear Prayer Partners of Francisco Caldera,

As you may know or perhaps not, my role as the leader of CrossWay International, involves traveling to various countries around the world to find and oversee qualified individuals who can faithfully work with us as coworkers. Since I'm physically blind, it is all the more important that we have an accountability system set up in their country and that these workers have a very high degree of integrity and faithfulness to the Lord. They are tested and tried not only by me but also by others who often travel with me and we put them to the test.

One such individual that has worked with us for several years, and is now our Field Director for Nicaragua, is Francisco. He is doing an amazing work for us in this needy country of Nicaragua. But who is Francisco? When I think of him, two people come to mind.

First of all, Francisco is like Timothy and my son in the Lord. In Philippians 2:20 – 22, we read the Apostle Paul's words regarding Timothy – "I have no one else like him, who takes a genuine interest in your welfare. For everyone looks out for his own interests, not those of Jesus Christ. But you know that Timothy has proved himself, because as a son with his father he has served with me in the work of the gospel."



Francisco has gone with me to no less than 40 locations in the past few years in Nicaragua to preach the gospel of God's grace. On my recent trip to see him (Nov. 29 – Dec. 4) we visited 4 locations. We addressed the community of Diriamba and had over 100 respond to the gospel and trust in Christ alone. The next day we visited our building site in Laguna de Apoyo for our office and training center and 4 of the 8 men working on this building trusted in Christ when we took the time to share the gospel. Then the next day, we were off to the small prison of Tisma. We shared the gospel with the 13 inmates in the 2 crowded cells, and all 13 prisoners trusted in Christ for their salvation. And on my last day before heading back to the USA, we preached at a church in Managua. 80 were present and 21 of these had never heard that salvation was by grace alone, through faith alone in Christ alone and trusted in Christ for their salvation. These opportunities are typical of how God is using Francisco. And when you add to all of this, his oversight of our water well ministry, the feeding centers in 4 locations the oversight of our construction for our office/training center and the work to make arrangements for various teams from the USA to come and minister, you can understand the load he is carrying.

Second, Francisco reminds me of Epaphroditus. Paul calls him "my brother, fellow worker and fellow soldier". (Phil 2:25) And you may not know this but Francisco has had some serious problems with his heart and high blood pressure. That is one reason I am writing this prayer letter to you. He is an early riser like me, often getting up at 4:00 A.M. and then working late into the night. I am encouraging him to cut back on this intense schedule so he doesn't burn himself out. Just last December 5, after I had returned from my visit to see him, he had to once again go to the doctor because of his heart problems.

As we read about Epaphroditus in Phil 2:26, 27 – “For he longs for all of you and is distressed because you heard he was ill. Indeed he was ill, and almost died. But God had mercy on him, and not on him only but also on me, to spare me sorrow upon sorrow. “



And he knows what it is to take risks. I have had to tell him not to go to certain places that are just too volatile. One such place was San Benito where 3 murders occurred in this small village. But he went any way to investigate a possible water well drilling opportunity. Or the time he was taking some American pastors to their location to teach in the Chinandega region and they were fired on by a drunken sailor with an AK-47. And so it is that we should pray for Francisco and honor him. Phil 2:29 – “Welcome him in the Lord with great joy, and honor men like him, 30 because he almost died for the work of Christ, risking his life ...”

Please feel free to email or call me anytime for an update on his ministry and know that he is working hard and very faithfully for the Lord. As a faith missionary, Francisco is responsible to look to the Lord for his own support. Right now it is around \$2300 in deficit due to the help we gave him to purchase a car. This car is a tremendous help and helps to avoid the herky-jerky way of trying to get from one location to another. And it is saving him funds. His basic monthly support need is around \$500 a month and he wants to thank each of you for your prayers and support.

Warmly in Christ,  
Dean  
CEO CrossWay International

P.S. If you do decide to send a check in for Francisco, please indicate that on the memo line of your check or on a separate note. Thanks so much for considering his ministry and praying for him.