

Pray also for me, that whenever I open my mouth, words may be given me so that I will fearlessly make known the mystery of the gospel, for which I am an ambassador in chains. Pray that I may declare it fearlessly, as I should.
(Ephesians 6:19, 20)

July 2014

Dear Prayer Partners,

No. I wasn't really arrested. But I did have the chance last month to preach the Gospel to 150 inmates at the Masaya Jail in Nicaragua. Our police friends, who arranged this, agreed to handcuff me for a picture. (Note: For more on Captain Morales and his decision to trust in Christ, see later in this prayer letter.) I admit, it did not feel all that good when they (jokingly) said they couldn't find the key.

It was only a few hours earlier before the taking of this picture that I had had the opportunity to enter this jail. And I was left wondering what it would feel like to truly be locked up and put in prison just as the Apostle Paul experienced at times in his ministry.

When I did preach the Gospel in this jail, all the prisoners were attentive and listened carefully to the message of God's grace and forgiveness. When I gave the invitation to trust in Christ alone for their salvation, 23 of the prisoners responded. Francisco Caldera, our faithful Field Director, was present to help with the translation and assist in the preaching. He continues to grow in his walk with the Lord and is presently dealing with some fairly serious health issues, namely high blood pressure, an enlarged heart, and unstable blood glucose levels.

And even though I do not wear the physical chains like the Apostle Paul wore in his ministry, I am, nevertheless, figuratively a willing prisoner to God's love with a desire to make Christ known and to serve as His ambassador. Thank you for allowing me and our team to take the Gospel to so many locations through your prayers and support.

Your Partner,

Dean Chollar



Working as a Team in Nicaragua



On this recent trip to Nicaragua from June 3 - 9, (it is my fourth trip there this calendar year), I (Dean) had the pleasure of traveling with Fred VandenBosch, the Vice President of CrossWay International and dear friend to me for many years. He has always served and helped me think through various issues that come up in our ministry. He is a reliable sounding board and advisor that is greatly appreciated. And even though he is 70, he accepted the challenge to travel with me and gain a personal insight into what we are doing on this mission field of Nicaragua. He was able to visit one of our feeding centers, the construction site for our Training Center, sit in on some

of the Pastors Conference and shadow our other team members.

The team for this mission trip was led by Allen Mann, our newly appointed regional director. He continues to grow in his ability and understanding of how a mission organization operates, and is, himself, a fervent witness of the clear gospel of God's grace. His passion for evangelism is very contagious. Please pray for Allen and the role we want him to pursue as a faith missionary and leader with Crossway International.

We also had on this mission trip Pastor Keith Kelley and James Linskey who taught the Pastors Conference. Keith taught on the life of Samuel, and James taught on discipleship principles. I had many good reports from their times of teaching, and appreciate such men giving up their time and energy to assist us in the training of pastors. These pastors simply do not have much opportunity for such quality training, and they return to their respective churches strengthened in sound doctrine and God's grace. And again, one of the pastors at our conference, after hearing Allen Mann present the plan of salvation using our Gift cube, understood for the first time that salvation was by grace alone, through faith alone, in Christ alone and put his trust in Christ for eternal life.

Allen, Keith and James also had time to go out and do some street evangelism. At one such opportunity, they preached to 15 gang members and 8 of them understood for the first time that salvation was by grace, and placed their trust in Christ. We rejoice in their release from spiritual captivity!

Reaching the Gangs

On Sunday morning, Francisco invited 14 other gang members from his area to come to his home and hear me preach. When I gave the invitation, 11 of the gang members trusted in the Lord for eternal life. One of them was a gang member who recently attacked Francisco with a machete when he tried to steal Francisco's daughter's bike. He cut Francisco's forehead with the machete but was later arrested. Francisco decided not to press charges when this young man went to court, and he is now walking with the Lord as a brother.

Also present was Captain Morales, the captain of the police department in Masaya. He also trusted in the Lord at this meeting. After I finished preaching that morning, he gave a stirring message of how he wants to help and to guide these young men. So we now have brothers from the gang and a brother in the police department, working arm in arm to assist us in discipling these young men. God is truly amazing!



Setting the Captives Free in the Philippines



And on the other side of the world: here are some excerpts from Allen Mann's journal on his trip to the Philippines in May. He was there to share with the men at the House of Hope, a Christian Drug Rehabilitation Center and After Care Home.

...Finally at the House of Hope. When we pulled into the compound, the men were having their quiet time. I said hi and they said hi and I said "shhh, it's quiet time!" They got a laugh out of that and I was shown to my room. The bed is nice and there is an air conditioner, on low, on

the other side of the room. There is an oscillating fan, but it does not oscillate towards me, ever. Going to be a hot night.

(Early the next morning.) It happened. We sat in a large circle and prayed and sang at the top of our lungs and shared what we were thankful for. They asked me to share what it meant to be thankful, so I gave a short devotional. I really enjoyed being in that circle today. After breakfast of grape jelly on bread, I set up for morning devotions in the chapel. Again, another singing time at the top of our lungs and the music cranked so loud my ears vibrated. After we sang, we prayed; and then I spoke for about 30 minutes. It was fun and the guys are full of attention for the Word.

For lunch, I was offered boiled pig intestines, a common food here. I tried one small piece and chewed on it for about 20 minutes. That was my first and last boiled pig intestine.

Saturday - the Anniversary Celebration: I watched as the guys jumped to work. They began to set up the entire campus for the Celebration. They spent most of the afternoon working on the sound settings, instrument tuning, and singing practice. It was tearful to listen to 50 men stand and sing together - "I'll Never Be The Same Again." When most of the settings were completed, I had the privilege of being a part of a jam session. I played bass guitar and drums and had a great time being with the men.

The celebration itself was super. All of the men dressed up and cheerfully greeted their loved ones as they came through the gate. There was much hugging and many tears of joy. The event was well attended both by family and supporters. The program that the men created was flawless. The men sang at different times; many prayers were lifted; special guest speakers with testimonies of changed lives; the message of salvation through Jesus Christ was presented various times and a drama played by the men was perfect for the occasion. I had the privilege of encouraging the crowd, the men and the families, and the privilege to present the gospel of grace. The men had set up beautifully decorated tables for the meal. They sat with their families and friends and enjoyed laughter and tears. It was encouraging to see what God had done in these men over the last year.

Sunday Worship Service: I really enjoy singing with these men. They sing like no other people I have heard. They sing loud and strong and they are not concerned with who is around them. 80 men, filling up a room and singing in unison to our God makes the heart light. I was disappointed when the singing was done.

I spoke to the men using the CrossWay gift cube. I shared the gospel of grace and at the end of the message, 26 or so persons in the room indicated that they had understood this clear gospel message for the first time and put their trust in Christ alone! That was even greater than the men singing! My heart is lifted so high. I am overwhelmed that God would use me to be His mouthpiece.

The remainder of the afternoon was spent in conversations here and there with the men. They really are fun to be with and are very nice. Some of their stories are heart breaking, but their testimony about what God has done and is doing in each of their lives is encouraging. Many of them have come so far in their new life.

***The Lord gives freedom to the prisoners.
(Psalm 146:7)***

Praise

1. Praise the Lord for the many who heard the gospel and trusted in Christ alone for their salvation.
2. Praise the Lord for you, our faithful partners in the work of the Lord.
3. Praise for the successful school years in our 2 schools for orphans and needy kids in Ethiopia and Liberia.



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Prayer

1. Pray for Dean's upcoming trip to Ethiopia on July 15, and for Dean and Bruce McIntosh as they teach a Couples Conference, and oversee other ministries in Nicaragua on August 1-3.
2. Pray for the health needs of our missionaries and coworkers, in particular Francisco Caldera (blood pressure, heart, and blood glucose levels), and Isaac Zoedah (typhus).
3. Pray for the prayer and support needs for all our missionaries and coworkers so that we may continue to spread the good news of the Lord setting the captives free.

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Luke 4:14-21 "Then Jesus returned in the power of the Spirit to Galilee, and news of Him went out through all the surrounding region. And He taught in their synagogues, being glorified by all. So He came to Nazareth, where He had been brought up. And as His custom was, He went into the synagogue on the Sabbath day, and stood up to read. And He was handed the book of the prophet Isaiah. And when He had opened the book, He found the place where it was written: "The Spirit of the Lord is upon Me, Because He has anointed Me To preach the gospel to the poor; He has sent Me to heal the brokenhearted, to proclaim liberty to the captives and recovery of sight to the blind, to set at liberty those

who are oppressed; to proclaim the acceptable year of the Lord." Then He closed the book, and gave it back to the attendant and sat down. And the eyes of all who were in the synagogue were fixed on Him. And He began to say to them, "Today this Scripture is fulfilled in your hearing. "

Because of your partnership, we are seeing people around the world being freed from their spiritual captivity. Thank you for your faithfulness!

Meet the CWI Team - Joan Chollar

I grew up going to church, but it wasn't until I was 16 years old that I understood a verse that I had known since very young - John 3:16. "For God so loved the world (that was me) that He gave His only Son (Jesus), that whoever (me again) believes (trusts) in Him (Jesus), should not perish, but have eternal life (in Heaven with Him)." Up until this time I had been trusting in myself, trusting that my good works would outweigh my bad works, earning me entrance into eternal life. I was trying to be a good person, and had even dedicated my life to God. In fact, I was trusting in that dedication for eternal life. Now I understood for the first time that it was only by trusting in the payment that Jesus paid for all of my sins when He died on the cross, that I could receive the free gift of life in Heaven with Him. I could never earn it.

Shortly after that I went to Bible College, and then Nursing School to become a Medical Missionary. God had other plans, though, and I married Dean in 1973. God allowed me to be a full-time homemaker, entrusting us with 4 precious children (Jason, Rachel, Micah and Bethany). We finally did end up going to the mission field when we went to Belgium in 1986, where I enjoyed being involved with women's, youth, and children's ministries.

Since moving back to the States in 1997 and the start of CrossWay, I have been involved with helping Dean in the office, helping with the bookkeeping, graphics, and keeping the computers running. And when I am able, I like to visit our 13 wonderful grandchildren spread from Washington State to Washington, D.C. to Orlando.

