

Q1 2009

NEW LIFE NICARAGUA



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As is always the case, 2008 brought many blessings and a few challenges as well.

KEY EVENTS FROM LAST YEAR

2008 Timeline

January ~ March

Pastor's Conference

Evangel Cathedral brings ministry to Nicaragua's pastors. 140 join EFI.

Whole Child International

Chooses New Life as 1 of 4 orphanages they will work with in Nicaragua.

April ~ June

New Life Ministry Campus

In April we complete construction of our 2nd building, a new warehouse.

New Director

Rina Blanco joins the team as Director for New Life Nicaragua Nutrition Center.

Deadly Virus

In June a deadly virus sweeps across Nicaragua. Many children with compromised immune systems die. For the first time in our history we institute a center wide 3 week quarantine.

July ~ September

Relocation

In July we move our orphanage into a much larger home. Everybody is happy.

Many Teams

Come and help make the new house a home for our 49 children.

October ~ December

Critical Donations

Come in and make Christmas a reality for the kids and all of us at New Life.

Economy Fails & Donations Drop

2008 ends and we are receiving 50% less each month for the orphanage.

A LOOK BACK AT 2008

For the most part, this past year has been a year of great growth and success in various areas of our ministry. So much so that Chris and I find ourselves spread thinner than ever. No doubt, our greatest failing has been in the area of communicating with you. When we started this ministry 7 years ago, we had no way of knowing the physical and emotional challenges we would face. It is no small task being the vision and voice for an international ministry that is:

- operating with 40 employees.
- facilitating team ministry.
- ministering to pastors and church leaders.
- being a general contractor for a large building project.
- parenting 49 children plus our own.

I'm not complaining. God has shown Himself strong in all of our challenges and we are so very grateful to Him for all He is doing. We are still amazed at the opportunity He has given us to be a part of it all. We just want to use this opportunity to thank you all for being so kind and patient and understanding of who we are and what we deal with. You are amazing people and I'm so proud that God has put us in each others lives. We hope as you read this report you'll have a greater awareness of where we are right now and maybe get a sense of how you can help and pray. All of us at New Life Nicaragua want you to know that we use every opportunity to lead those He's brought to us to the Amazing Grace of our Lord Jesus Christ

Wonderful Changes In New Life's Center Of Nutrition

When we first began our orphanage and re-nutrition center, we started out in a house that was approximately 2500 square feet. We were mainly looking for something that was big enough for our 3 staff and 2 children to live in with room to grow. But after 3 years, 23 employees and 49 kids, we desperately needed to find something bigger that would accommodate everyone until we could build on our own property. This past July we found a house that met our needs and fit our budget . It's a large house in a gated community and I'm guessing it's probably 5000 square feet. It has 4 bedrooms for the children and 2 large common areas that we have divided off into task and play areas. For the first time ever, we have proper offices for the administrative staff. Northwest Church in Temperance, Michigan bought us 2 new computers and monitors so we now have 4 nice workstations and 3 computers. We also have made a lot of improvements in the way we organize and inventory our medicines and general donations. The cooks are actually nice to me again because they have a kitchen that doesn't allow thru-traffic, a big problem in the old house. All in all we are very happy with the changes in the living conditions and



Nicaragua's children need us now more than ever. The number of children being abandoned is rising. Unfortunately, we are turning kids away weekly for a lack of funds.

are grateful to all who gave and made it possible. There's been some good personal changes for our kids as well. Several of our older children accepted the Lord Jesus Christ as their personal saviour this past year. We've been incredibly blessed by the spiritual growth of our older children. Some of our kids have

left us and gone to live with family members who will love them and cherish them, while others have been placed into loving homes in foster care. Some have left because someone loved them enough to give them their name. We've had children adopted to Nicaragua, Spain, Italy and the USA this past year.

Sound Investing In Difficult Times

No doubt we are living in difficult times. When 2008 ended the Dow was down 38%. We all felt the effects in our jobs, home values and investments. It might be tempting to cut back on our giving and taking care of the poor. But, God admonishes us not to trust in our money but to trust Him and do good. I know it's scary, but we must continue to fight the good fight. If we are faithful we will all reap eternal dividends, those who give and those who receive. We have really felt the effects of the economy in our donations. We want to encourage you not to lose heart but please continue to give.

"Tell those who are rich in this world not to be proud and not to trust in their money, which will soon be gone. But their trust should be in the living God, who richly gives us all we need for our enjoyment. Tell them to use their money to do good. They should be rich in good works and should give generously to those in need, always being ready to share with others whatever God has given them. By doing this they will be storing up their treasure as a good foundation for the future so that they may take hold of real life." 1 Timothy 6:19 (NLT)

Teams Make Miracles Happen

We couldn't have come this far without the many churches, teams and individuals that God has brought to partner with the ministry. Some come to minister to pastors and church leaders. Some come to build for the future on our ministry campus while some come to help meet the many needs at the orphanage, such as interacting with the kids or building and maintenance projects. Whenever there is hard work to do there is a team willing to roll up their sleeves and get the job done. Many teams go that extra mile and bless us by bringing items that are expensive or impossible for us to find here. And then the ultimate blessing are those teams that also bring a financial contribution. True partners and co-laborers in every sense of the word.

We Are So Grateful For Our Nicaraguan Staff And Volunteers

They work very hard alongside us and are a huge part of the ministry. One in particular, is a fellow missionary named Susanna, that is serving as our nurse. She has turned out to be a huge blessing to the center. She is charting our kids percentiles and motor development in this really neat computer software from the World Health Organization.

The children's charts and our reports to the government are amazing now. We've also hired a new director for the orphanage. Rina has made such a difference, not only for our children, but she has taken some of the load off of Chris and myself. She used to work for Mi Familia and we are very grateful for her. We've also made another great hire with our new



doctor. She has helped by teaching our staff preventive care methods which has resulted in less hospital admissions which has reduced our monthly budget. We know this ministry is so much bigger than we are and we are trusting God to provide whom and what we need. This is a team effort and we know when the time is right He will bring others who will help Chris and I as well.



Ministry Campus & Missions Center

Praise God we've completed 2 buildings on our new missions center and ministry campus. A huge warehouse to store humanitarian-aid and a guard house that will serve as part of the offices once construction is finished. I was the general contractor on these buildings but I can't do that going forward. It takes too much time. Several months back we chose our project's architect, so God willing, and as soon as



we receive all our building permits from city hall, we will begin construction again.

The approval process is a long one in Nicaragua but all of this has been complicated by the volatility in the

government and high personnel turnover in city hall. Thank the Lord, He is the builder and His timing is always perfect, we have learned that very well.

Pastors Conference

We had a great pastors conference in January. A team from our home church, Evangel Cathedral in Spartanburg, SC, came and brought a very encouraging word and ministry to about 300 Nicaraguan pastors and church leaders. Over 140 of them joined Fraternidad Internacional de Evangélicos, giving us approximately 300 pastors and church leaders in our organization now. I wish we had more time and financial resources to develop this aspect of our ministry.



Family News

Just a quick update on what's happening with our family. Brad is living and working in Hilton Head, South Carolina and as always we miss him. This is our year of preparing Abram to leave us after graduation in June. This is going to leave a huge hole in our hearts and ministry, but we know God has big plans. Jacob is in the 10th grade and has shot up tall in just a few months time. Jenn is enjoying school this year and growing like a weed as well. They all three worked all summer translating for teams. Lola started preschool this year and is loving every second of it, the shy child she is and all! We are praying daily for the teachers. Just kidding, she is just full of life. We have a new sweet face at our house and we are trusting God for what He has for her. Her name is Mercedes, she is 6 months old. Chris and I are great, just trying to keep up. God has been so good to us. We are blessed!





Tim & Chris with US Marines. The Marines from the US Embassy brought our kids toys at Christmas. It was part of their Toys for Tots program.

NewLifeNicaragua.org

Finally, we have the beginnings of a new website and blog. It's still under construction so it doesn't look like a finished product yet. We will be adding more content over the next few weeks so check back often.

Donations can be sent to:

New Life Nicaragua
% Evangel Fellowship Intl.
200 Evangel RD
Spartanburg, SC 29301

Important: Please make check payable to EFI and write New Life Orphanage on the memo line of your check. Thank you and God Bless!

A LOOK AHEAD IN 2009

2009 looks like it will be another year of great challenges and opportunities. Challenges for the ministry and challenges for the kids and orphans we love so much. More abandoned children than ever are coming in and suffering from malnutrition due to the failing economies and political climate. But with our donations being down it's impossible for us to help them or take them in.

Over the last few months we stopped taking in new kids and reduced our orphanage staff by 30% and our food budget by 20%. All of this so that we can survive with less funding. But I'm afraid this won't be enough. If donations don't pick up we will have to make some hard decisions in the next couple of months.

The only way we can find peace in this is because we know God loves these kids more than we do and He's always made a way for them. In Deuteronomy, "When you are harvesting your crops and forget to bring in a bundle of grain from your field, don't go back to get it. Leave it for the foreigners, orphans, and widows. Then the LORD your God will bless you in all you do." And in

James, "Pure and lasting religion in the sight of God our Father means that we must care for orphans and widows in their troubles, and refuse to let the world corrupt us."

If you've followed our ministry over the last 7 years you might have noticed that I've never come right out and ask for money. I don't like to do it. It makes me uncomfortable. But right now I'm asking you to give. Not for me but for the abandoned children we have now and those just out of our reach. We've helped so many children over the years and now we face one of the most critical times in our ministry. May I ask you, the next time you pray, would you remember the kids and ask the Lord how you can help personally?

Chris and I thank each and every one of you who partner with this ministry. We pray that God blesses you in every good thing you put your hand to do.

Newsletters In 2009

Because our time is so limited we will only be publishing our newsletter once every quarter. Our main way of communicating with you will be through our blog and website.

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"He is no fool who gives what he cannot keep to gain what he cannot lose" (Jim Elliot).