



Teams on Mission

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Working With Police In Nicaragua Two Dimensional Cross Cultural Work

There is no disputing the fact that when you enter the cities of Leon, Chinandega, and Matagalpa you have crossed many cultural barriers of language and culture, but when you enter the police station in one of these cities and try to begin to build relationships there are a whole new set of cultural barriers that deal with the badge and the uniform. A formidable task yet there is no doubt that the Lord orchestrated this task because of the smoothness and the success.



This group is from the city of Chinandega



This group is from the city of Matagalpa

The team of five men from the USA and a translator from Chinandega who was raised in the USA came together meeting basically for the first time in the airport in Atlanta. Four members of the team had police experience and three had experience in Latin America, and three spoke sufficient Spanish to communicate on a basic level. The effort was prompted by the Nicaraguan Police themselves who had contacted a Lutheran Men's Ministry in Chinandega who then contacted Most Ministries, a Lutheran short-term mission agency in Michigan. They began to form a team which ultimately became the five men pictured on the right. The team is from left to right: Scotty Davis, Dominic Cappuccilli, Stephen Lee, Matthew Guthas, and Richard Greiner. The team represents three organizations and four denominations. The mix of the team is remarkable and the touch on the Nicaraguan police department unmistakable.



Relationships are the Key to Future of Police Missions

Meeting the people was a huge part of the mission trip to Nicaragua's National Police. The team bonded even as they met in Atlanta and then Roberto, the team translator, was instantly accepted as a part of the team. The meeting of many of the supervisors and leaders of the National Police was met with several different formal meetings. The team presented a copy of "God's Word for Peace Officers," a Tactical Edition Bible, to the key leaders as opportunities arose. Steve Lee, who was heading up the program for the team, wrote this special edition for peace officers in 1998. The Tactical Edition is the third printing of this popular Bible for Police and Law Enforcement personnel. All three photos show presentations of Bibles.



One of the highlights on the trip came as we talked with one of the commissionaires, and he reached back and pulled out of his shelf a copy of another Bible he had been presented. It was a copy of *Dawan Bila Aiska*, which is the Miskito Indian Bible. Lee Lopez pictured on the right had served as the commissar in Puerto Cabeza and knew Jim and Viola Palmer as well as many of our Baptist pastors in the RAAN area of northeastern Nicaragua. The groundwork was laid for the future as we sat in discussion groups, ate lunch together and prayed together. The team was invited to go on several high profile calls including a death investigation, a drug bust and a homicide. For certain, a level of trust has been established that will likely open the door for future missions to the Nicaraguan National Police.



Mount Hope Project Continues

A Group from Burnt Hickory Baptist will be traveling to Jasper on September 8 to install the sheetrock on the five Sunday School rooms in the basement that were started by a team back in June. Mount Hope Community Church is located about five and a half miles west of Jasper on Highway 53. How wonderful it is when God's people help each other.

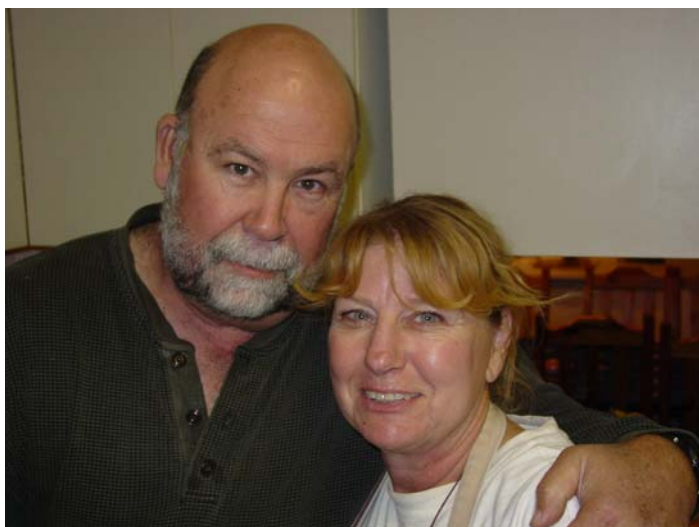
Dan Titus Returns to Nicaragua for Most of September

Dan has returned to Rosita to work with a team coming in to complete the fence started in December 2005 by Mission Team Inc. Dan will be in Rosita for about two weeks and then travel to Puerto Cabeza for an additional week. The damage from Hurricane Felix may affect his trip and cause him to make changes in his plans. Pray for Dan as he labors in the field during the month of September.



Lost Mountain Baptist Church has Huge Success in Dominican Republic

Lost Mountain Baptist Church launched its international missions program with what could be considered two teams this summer. Back-to-back groups worked in the mountain village of Mata de Limón in the Dominican Republic to build a preschool building for Youth with a Mission (YWAM). According to Ami Denton, the experience was fantastic as they worked with children, worked on a building, dug a septic system and experienced short-term missions in full. Ami is already praying about next year and will begin to work soon toward training people for next year.



Alan and Babs Dial Soon to be on Stateside Assignment

Lesotho Strategy Coordinators Alan and Babs Dial will be traveling to the USA in late September and will be speaking in the area for church groups and Sunday School classes in late October and again in February. The Dials have been working for four years with the Basotho People of the Maluti Mountains in Lesotho.

Things to Keep in Your Prayers

As this is being sent, little is known of the damage from Hurricane Felix. Jim and Viola are safe with some damage to their home and compound, but the storm is still raging on the Rio Coco where many good pastors and church people live. Pray for the Miskito people in the aftermath of this horrible storm.

Pray for the work in Athol, Idaho

Scotty will be traveling to Athol Baptist Church September 28 through October 4 for a Men's Conference and revival services at the church. The pastor is Mark Brazelton.

Pray for First Baptist Church in Sulligent, Alabama

Scotty will be helping to enable and equip the church for missions October 14 through 18 and preaching revival services in the evening. John Nicholson is the pastor.

Pray for the Nicaraguan Baptist Seminary as they seek funding for next year.

I Am Ready But I Need Your Help

I have worked for several weeks on a three year business plan for Mission Team Inc. The plan has been submitted to the Board of Directors of Mission Team Inc to help as a guide and a blueprint for the future. The plan has many parts and is quite detailed in many ways. I have always heard that you should make a plan and work the plan, and that is what we are going to try to accomplish in the next three years. The plan has at its core the mission statement shown in the inset box below. This is where I need your help. The intent and desire I really have over the next few years is to see as many as is possible come to discover the joy of the work of short-term missions. I take this work very seriously and believe that God has called me to this task. I therefore will be seeking out individuals and churches who I can configure, challenge, and even carry out on short-term missions. You can talk to those who think about the possibility of missions and yet do not know what or how they could get involved. Have them give me a call, or better yet, you give me a call and I will call them. Also, a task like this cannot be taken on without first considering the cost. The support that so many have given to Mission Team Inc in its first two years has been remarkable. Now we are planning and proceeding with a real game plan and we need your continuing support. Please pray for the ministry and please support the ministry financially, but now I am asking you for one more thing. Tell others about the ministry. As people who have an interest in missions are discovered, tell them there is someone you know who will be glad to help. I do not have all the answers but I know the one who does.

God Bless You,

Scotty

The vision of MTI is to enable individuals to build mission-minded relationships, discover short-term missions, and develop healthy Kingdom growth.