

News from Our Friends in Nicaragua

By Kent Grimes

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The coronavirus pandemic has taken its toll around the world. Our friends and partners in developing countries haven't been spared. The virus has affected the ministries of our partners in Nicaragua. FPC has been partnering with one of our partners, the House of Hope (HOH), for ten years. The HOH provides a safe residence for women and their children...getting them off the streets of Managua and teaching them about the Christian faith, preparing them with a worthwhile trade, and praying with and for them throughout their journey. For non-residents, one day a week the HOH has been transporting women to their site for a prayer service, which has been curtailed.

FPC has also resumed its relationship with the Presbyterian Christian School (CCP) in 2017. The CCP is a Christian school for 400 students from Kindergarten thru 12th grade...it is located on a beautiful campus on the outskirts of Managua. Unfortunately, like our schools, the CCP has been closed. They don't have access to technology for online training and the parents often are not educated well enough to teach their children at home. The daily meal normally provided to the students, of course, is not available. The school has lost a source of income to pay the teachers and staff.

We have traveled on mission trips to Nicaragua since 2010 with youth of our church to visit, work and share stories with and pray together. We have become friends...close friends...always difficult to leave when we return home. The trips have been eye-opening trips for our youth. They were able to see how people live and work in other parts of the world and they were able to see God at work in these other places. These experiences for the youth and others have changed their lives...forever. On these trips we all are able to see and experience the various ways God blesses people...and the reaction of the people to God's continued blessings. Smiles on children and adults are as broad as one could imagine.

We have not been able to travel to Nicaragua for more than two years. Last year because of unrest in the country travel was unsafe and this year, of course, because of the virus. People that we know have come down with the virus. They don't have the care that developed countries have and ventilators are in short supply. Harry, our friend, driver, translator, and team member, was infected. Fortunately, he was not hospitalized and now on the road to recovery. His mother, however, was not as fortunate. She was seriously infected and two weeks ago she succumbed to the terrible disease.

We yearn for the time we'll be able to once again see and hug our friends. In the meantime, we continue to pray for our friends, as we know they are praying for all of us. Please add the people of Nicaragua to your prayer list.