



Sandy Carter

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Love Changes Lives



An Introduction Note from Sandy:

Recently the ministry has added another Nicaraguan staff member, Adlofo. He's been working with the teenage boys at "Hogar Nueva Esperanza" for a couple of months now. The road certainly hasn't been smooth for him and they've hit a couple of bumps along the way. As in every transition, change is involved, and the boys are certainly no strangers to change.

The rest of the newsletter is an introduction by Adolfo and what he's doing with the boys home:

A New Recruit

I never thought I would be doing this kind of work, especially with a marketing background and zero flight hours of experience when dealing with young teenage boys. After much prayer and meditation in the days after I joined the Globe Nicaragua team, I finally realized what I could give these boys was an example of a godly man.

I think these young men need to see an educated, Nicaraguan man of God that cares about them. I have a different view of the world, and in so many aspects I am different from any other local mentor that might have ended up supervising them. I know this sounds more complex than what a few words might allow me to write in this newsletter, but then again, the complexities of this country make it hard for us as Locals to figure out so many social, cultural and ideological barriers that continue to divide Nicaraguans even within the community of individuals that have proclaimed Jesus Christ as our personal Savior. May God continue to open doors in this wonderful labor of love.

Jackie Joins the Team

A couple of weeks into the job, I had a conversation with Doña Hilda, our cook, and she asked "So, Adolfo, how does it feel to become the father of 9 teenage boys overnight?" That's when it hit me, "I'm the dad of 9 teenage boys!" That doesn't happen everyday. I knew that the position was originally intended to be filled by a married couple with children of their own. Divine appointments led me to this position but I certainly was not going to be able to do it without a key mother figure.

My mother has been separated from my father for 10 years and since then it's been an interesting road for us both. We have been kind of drifting pointlessly – or so we thought. She was between her brother's home in El Salvador and her sister's home here in Nicaragua when I suggested she join us as a possible mother figure houseparent. In a matter of weeks she came down from El Salvador to interview with the orphanage's directors.

The more I thought about the team we could make, the more I realized we would be alright. There was no doubt in my mind things would work out in the end, and we are both happy to report now that my mom, Jacqueline, has been with us, giving the finishing touch to the team God has put together in this wonderful ministry.

Adolfo has been great with the boys, already broadening their horizons.

Our boys need to know that they are becoming men, and sooner rather than later they will join the work force of Nicaragua, and unfortunately not everything out there is as smooth as life here at the orphanage.

My business background began to overtake me when I created "Lost & Found Inc." Besides the spiritual guidance they receive at the orphanage, we are working on small business projects exploring their talents and abilities with the support of mission teams visiting us. Teams purchase creations especially manufactured by the boys and are sold at appropriate prices depending on the time and effort invested in the craft. The money is directly administered by the house parents and kept as savings for the purpose of instilling in them the habit of saving money for their future. At the same time, we use part of the money to purchase more materials in order to create more and be able to continue "staying in business." Every boy participates in order to keep it equal and not to grant monetary privileges to those more talented.

Roberto Gets His Pins Removed!

About a year ago, Roberto, one of our boys, broke his leg while playing in the swing set at the orphanage. He had pins inserted in his leg to correct the injury and just about a month ago, it was finally time to remove the pins. This was when our adventure with the Nicaraguan public health care system began. From the moment you step into a Nicaraguan public hospital, you start questioning how can human beings be exposed to this kind of experience, especially when dealing with sick children. It was a vivid eye opener and reminder that we do live, after all, in a third world country.

We are happy to report that the surgery went very well. The doctors were accessible and nice; and despite hours of waiting, being sent from window to window, rude nurses and hopeless bureaucracy, we were back in Los Cedros after three days.

Roberto stepped up to the plate and handled the situation like a true champ. He befriended every person he came in contact with and by the time we left the hospital, he was saying good bye to every person there.

Unfortunately, we cannot say this about other families that shared their stories with us during our stay there. Please, say a prayer for those less fortunate and those that do not have access to decent healthcare for their children. Now when I drive by that hospital and see the dimly lit room where Roberto stayed, I realize the struggle and pain those families go through.

Aldofo

House Parent, Home for Boys, Los Cedros