

W I L D W O O D G L O B A L M I S S I O N S

2021 MISSION: *nicaragua*

Dear Supporters of Mission Nicaragua -

I now sit down in attempts to summarize into a brief letter all that God did in and through our little exploratory team to once again revisit our long standing mission work in Nicaragua, but first ever work in Wawa Bar. As many of you know, we've been taking teams to Nicaragua on mission for the last 17 years. Our team has partnered with Mike & Sue Buzbee, who are the founding missionaries of the Open Hearts Ministry in Nicaragua. They have an incredible ministry throughout Nicaragua of ministering to the poor, rehabilitating families, a nourishment program for children;

two rescue homes (one for boys and one for girls), an after school club for the dump children, Ruby Ranch and also a ministry to the indigenous tribes of northern Nicaragua. It was awesome to see and share in the work God is doing through their ministry!



Nicaragua is one of the poorest countries in Latin America, second only to Haiti. The vast majority of the Nicaraguan population is trying to survive off about \$2 per day. Then recently, the resistance/revolution of the people

standing against the government in 2019 ushered in new financial problems along with discouragement, depression and even death. Then, the global pandemic of COVID in 2020 has also had devastating affect on the economy and the people. So, our church's ability to send teams the last few years have been severely hampered and restricted most of our efforts to minister in Nicaragua.

This recent exploratory team (Sam Harman and myself) joined with four of our mission partners in Nicaragua to serve in disaster response and aid in the recovery efforts in Northern Nicaragua in a community known as Wawa Bar. The primary people of Wawa Bar are indigenous Miskito people who live very simply and independently.

In November of 2020, Hurricanes Eta & Iota slammed into the northern Nicaragua Atlantic coast as category 4 and 5 and did so within 12 days of each other. The damage was catastrophic and in Wawa Bar, all 300+ families (totaling around 3,000+ residents) lost everything they owned. And to date, there has been very little international relief or response to this region that was hit so hard. Yet, the Nicaraguan people on Wawa Bar are resilient and had already taken the initiative to start the rebuilding process by salvaging all that they could find to construct a "home."



Getting in to Nicaragua in the midst of COVID was a difficult challenge and truly happened at the Lord's hand of guidance and protection. After spending some time with the Buzbees in Managua, we loaded a small plane to make the flight up to Puerto Cabezas, which would be home base for the rest of the mission. From there, each and every day we loaded a boat to make the 40-minute journey to Wawa Bar. There has never been electricity on Wawa Bar, so construction styles had to be adapted accordingly. But we were privileged to work alongside some locals who we hired to lead us through the style of building required. The homes are simple wood structures on stilts around 20' x 22'.



Building the homes was hard work, with very little relief from the sun and required all manual labor, but it was amazing how quickly the homes were able to be built with such small teams working on each home. We built one of the homes for Eduardo, a man who lost an arm in a fishing accident and his family. He has been staying with his sister since the Hurricanes. Eduardo's father is one of the pastors and community leaders in Wawa Bar. The other home we built was for a single mom and her children, but also for her mother.

The funding for this home was provided by another church, we just supplied the labor. But it was such a sweet moment to pray for these families and dedicate these homes in Jesus' name as a blessing to these families. We look forward to connecting with them on each of our subsequent missions to see how they are doing.

The need in Nicaragua is still great - especially when it comes to physical restoration from the destruction of the Hurricanes, but the spiritual need is great as well. The country has been through so much the last few years - a violent political revolution, destructive natural disasters and a global pandemic that have all made it difficult and impossible in some seasons to send teams... yet the mission moves forward! God is at work in Nicaragua and it is truly a privilege to partner with Open Hearts Ministries to see the Gospel go to the Nicaraguan people in word and deed.

So, thank you so much for your financial and prayer support! The mission would not have been possible without both. And please continue to pray and give so that we can continue to send teams to serve! And if you'd like to join one of the upcoming teams, please let me know.

Made for Mission!

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Todd".

Pastor Todd Veleber
Wildwood Global Missions

