

# Seravallis in Nicaragua



December 2019

**E**very morning we get up early and listen to the roosters and chickens waking up in our neighborhood, the horses shuffling past, the street vendors selling their wares, and music playing in some homes. Every morning our same prayer is that we can be a reflection of the glory of God, and that we can be good representatives of Jesus Christ in Nicaragua. An agenda full of discipleship and ministries such as the Bible Institute classes, youth group meetings, times of worship, and opportunities to evangelize await us every day.

It is worth it because we have been able to see the glory of God in our almost six years of ministry in Nicaragua. God provided us with a team so that we can have economic support every month; a prayer team that keeps our soul faithful even when we are so exhausted that we do not want to get up; companions in other parts of the world who send biblical teaching material and training that we use; people and churches willing to invest in construction projects and in the lives of the people of Nicaragua; and people willing to invest in our personal lives. This is just the beginning because we want to tell you how we have seen the glory of God in the last six months in Nicaragua.

During the summer season we hosted the *BreakThrough* taekwondo team. They shared the gospel in different schools and went to two other cities where we are investing in youth leaders—Managua and Carazo. We saw the glory of God in allowing a team from the United States to come after we had not had any visitors in almost 18 months due to the political crisis in Nicaragua. It was a great success, not only to share the gospel, but to have the opportunity to invite other US missionaries to come and be part of what God is doing in Nicaragua.

One of the goals we have in Nicaragua is to expand to other cities—the people of Managua and Carazo are a great inspiration. We have been able to assist a church in Managua that is going through a difficult time after the death of its pastor by investing in its youth leaders. In two weeks we will also have the opportunity to teach at a retreat for the entire congregation at the Arraigados facilities. In Carazo, beautiful things are also happening through the young people—they have invited us to teach in a group of youth leaders from all the churches of their denomination, so we thank God for moving in them. The leaders we invest in are very interested in more formal training, and we

are praying for God to show us how we can make the Bible Institute more wireless to facilitate access.

After the *BreakThrough* team left the country, God allowed us to experience some difficult days. It was the first time we had to go through medical problems since we have been married. Raquel had a small surgery but we saw the glory of God in His provision in the medical aspect, the good care from the medical staff, and Raquel's rapid recovery. Raquel's mother and Milo's parents did come to join us during those difficult days. We saw God working in our hearts but we ask you to continue praying for Raquel in her complete healing and in God's will to give us children someday.

Nagarote is probably the place where we most see the glory of God. The main objective we wish to develop is to build a solid leadership body. We can see God working in Marvin, Larry, Maynor, Yilber, and Mercedes. They are very engaged in different ministries and are being trained through discipleship and the Biblical Institute. We pray that they can be a team with us, that they see us as partners, and that they increasingly assume the challenges that God is putting on them. We ask God for much wisdom for us to



Our church group



Sigueme Kids Club



Family Time



*Lettering class*



*Our home meeting*



*College youth group*

guide them. We also ask for wisdom for all the ways in which we invest in them and other people, such as the Bible Institute and our personal lives.

In the last letter we told you how this is a slow process. Sometimes we would like to push it, but we understand that God works in the life of each person as a watchmaker does a Rolex, until we become Christlike. That is what we are seeing in the people we invest in and in our lives too, but we greatly enjoy seeing His work.

A few days ago we had a retreat with 20 of the people we are investing in in Nicaragua—4 from Managua, 2 from Carazo, 12 from Nagarote, and GMI missionaries Ronnie and Jaque were with us. It was a precious study on the six priorities in Jesus' personal life: the Holy Spirit, prayer, obedience, the Word, exaltation to the Father, and relationships of love and integrity. Our prayer is that these are our priorities every day, and in the life of the leaders of Nicaragua, and also in the lives of our international team: you. We thank God for that beautiful time, His provision, and His Word.

Finally, we want to tell you about the blessings that God will be bringing to Nagarote in 2020. Lilibeth Ortega from Bolivia becomes part of the team in January, and the Sykes will come in May when Ronnie and Jaque Mackensen leave Nicaragua for Panama after their Spanish studies are done. We pray for the whole process of adaptation for them, for us, and for the ministry, but we give glory to God because He has sent reinforcements in a timely manner. We are so

excited for those God is preparing through this new experience.

Also, in January we will receive a missions team from Grace Bible Church in Wisconsin. They visited us two years ago just before the political crisis began in Nicaragua. They have provided us with support and helped us build the rooms to host equipment that we also use as classrooms. We are so grateful to God for their lives, and just as they have been part of the ministry despite the distance, we pray for other churches that want to come to Nicaragua. If you or your church is interested in coming and serving on a short-term trip, do not hesitate to contact us ([raquelcordero21@gmail.com](mailto:raquelcordero21@gmail.com)).

On December 1 we will be celebrating our 7th wedding anniversary—we have seen the faithfulness of God in each area, in each challenge, and in each day. God has shown us His mercy, He has blessed us, He is forming us through marriage. Glory to God for these seven years. We ask your prayers for God to guide us as to the pace of life that

we must follow to please Him, especially as for our time with God rather than filling ourselves with tasks. May we live full of grace first to show truth, that we work first in being and then doing, first in the heart of His will and then in the works.

We are very excited to go out for a few days during Christmas to visit our family and our church in Costa Rica. Last year we wanted to think if Jesus was physically among us for Christmas. How would we celebrate His birthday? What birthday card would we make? What birthday cake? What would your party be like? What would you want to eat for His birthday? I hope that this birthday of Jesus we can remember His life, and live as He would live. Merry Christmas!

In Christ's love.

Milo and Raquel Seravalli

P.S. GMI has the Christmas catalog at your disposal, in case you want to donate this Christmas to the ministry of Nicaragua or other ministries around the world ([https://www.gracem.org/project\\_category/2019-2020-christmas-catalog/](https://www.gracem.org/project_category/2019-2020-christmas-catalog/)). Our greatest need in Nicaragua is bunk beds for the work teams that are visiting (<https://www.gracem.org/project/bunk-beds-for-nicaragua/>).



*Some men Emiliano is discipling*

*Milo and Raquel*