

Seravallis in Nicaragua



June 2019

Oxen are slow but the earth is patient.

This phrase describes how these last several months of ministry have been here in Nicaragua. Things are moving slowly; people and the country remain unmotivated due to economic and political problems. But the good news is that the work of God does not stop! We know that the harvest will come. *“Let us not become weary in doing good, for at the proper time we will reap a harvest if we do not give up” (Galatians 6:9).*

“May the Lord direct your hearts into God’s love and Christ’s perseverance” {2 Thessalonians 3:5}.

Persevere...what a difficult thing to do. Ever since childhood I have seen how easy it is to abandon studies, work, marriage, family, and responsibilities. The reason I want to leave is these things are not what I expected—they are more difficult than I imagined, they demand sacrifice, they do not go as planned, and my flesh pushes me to throw in the towel. But

when I read Paul’s exhortation about the perseverance that God’s children should have, my perspective changes. God’s Word tells me that I must persevere, as Christ did, despite how difficult, unjust, problematic, dangerous, and unlikely God’s challenges seem. I think the problem is where I put my focus. *“The Lord himself goes before you and will be with you; he will never leave you nor forsake you. Do not be afraid; do not be discouraged” (Deuteronomy 31:8).*

God goes forward, and even if the pace is sometimes slow, we must not fear, we must not be discouraged, we must deny ourselves, take up the cross and follow him, because the work of God continues, grows, and wants us to be a part. For this reason, we are not discouraged, we continue working, praying, and giving for this work of God here in Nicaragua and in different parts of the world.

BIBLE INSTITUTE CONTINUES:

From January 22 to April 18, we had the first trimester of the year of the

Bible Institute with seven students and we were teaching four classes. Four of the students are taking all the classes with the goal of finishing and serving in ministry which is so exciting for us. The remaining students, even though they aren’t taking the full load of the four classes are maturing in their character and little by little they look more like Christ. *“My dear children, for whom I am again in the pains of childbirth until Christ is formed in you” (Galatians 4:19).*

On May 7 we started the second trimester with four new classes and 10 students. As we have said before, the objective of this Institute is to prepare workers for the harvest — *“to equip his people for works of service, so that the body of Christ may be built up” (Ephesians 4:12).*

LOCAL LEADERSHIP CONTINUES:

We are grateful to God that we have a ministerial team of locals with whom we are working. We are teaching them to serve in the different ministries. Each time we manage to del-



Enjoying some ministries at the church



A Bible Institute class



Emiliano and Raquel

egate more to them. They are people who have been learning in the Bible Institute. You have heard their names before.

Marvin has a Bible study group at home and also took on the challenge of discipling a group of boys from his neighborhood who have problems with alcohol and drugs.

Yilber has a baseball team from the church. Every time they meet they practice baseball and he also does a Bible study, he is also discipling two other men.

Larry is leading the group of teenagers and is also in charge of a children's soccer league.

Mercedes is discipling a friend and leading the ministry of youth and children—she is very young but from now on she has the dream of serving full time in ministry or missions.

Mainor is in charge of the ministry of worship in the church—he is learning and serving faithfully in this.

Eynerd is the youth leader of the Mennonite churches of Nicaragua. We are meeting with him and sharing Bible studies and going to conferences and camps to give talks. Through him we have managed to meet other very interesting people for the future.

In addition to them there are other disciples who are growing little by little: Yordin, Harold, Laleska, Anthony, Monserrat, Pedro, Karling, and Mariely.

We pray that you would remember these names when you pray for Nicaragua and ask God, *“so that Christ may dwell in your hearts through*



faith. And I pray that you, being rooted and established in love, may have power, together with all the Lord's holy people, to grasp how wide and long and high and deep is the love of Christ, and to know this love that surpasses knowledge—that you may be filled to the measure of all the fullness of God” (Ephesians 3:17-19).

CONSTRUCTION CONTINUES:

We are very grateful to God because the construction of the ministry here in Nagarote continues! Thank you for your support! We have remodeled the ministry building, painted the rooms, put A/C in one of the rooms. We still have a lot to do—this year we have the goal of finishing the first floor of the building for teams from abroad. We pray for this process of construction in Nagarote—may God continue to provide.

NOTE FROM US:

We are very grateful to God for allowing us to serve in Nicaragua. We have already been here five years and have grown and matured. We want to continue to mature as a couple and as people in Christ. Thank you for your prayers and support for our ministry—

we love you. When you pray for us you can pray for:

- Our marriage
- Our residence renewal
- Wisdom

“Therefore, my dear brothers and sisters, stand firm. Let nothing move you. Always give yourselves fully to the work of the Lord, because you know that your labor in the Lord is not in vain” (1 Corinthians 15:58).

Milo and Raguél