



Dear Pastor and Church,

July 31, 2009

We are excited to report that while there are a few minor cosmetic details to finish, the major part of our construction project is finally completed. In the next week or so we will be sending you some before and after pictures of the building. What a blessing it has been. Not only are we able to accommodate many more people, we were finally able to have a baptismal service in more than a two and a half foot deep pool. In our first baptismal service the family that we have been telling you about (Freddy's family), were all baptized. As a pastor it is exciting to see an entire family come to know Christ and then all follow in obedience! Since the baptistery has been completed we have seen 15 take that first step of obedience. This is a big deal in a culture where baptism is viewed as turning your back on your family and "real" religion.

In June we had a youth group from Winter Haven Baptist Church in Winter Haven, FL come to minister. What a blessing this group was. They got involved in different aspects of the ministry here from which we are still receiving blessings. They painted two beautiful murals in a couple of our Sunday school classrooms. The Saturday in which they were here we had a one day VBS in which 150 kids attended. The group painted faces, made balloon animals, dressed up like clowns, did crafts, and even gave a karate demonstration (kids are still trying to do flips on the platform, thanks Sam). Some teens are really timid when it comes to interacting with people in a different culture. I was so proud of this group. They went on visitation and tried their best to communicate and be a blessing to the people of our church, and they were. On Sunday they taught the children's Sunday school classes with "flip books". These books teach English phrases along side of Spanish phrases and in the end each child receives a special message that they are special, God loves them and that He sent His son Jesus to die for them. Both the youth pastor, Nathan Braymer, and the senior pastor, Mark Hodges, brought great messages to our youth and adults. I would like to publically thank them and the Winter Haven Baptist Church for their ministry here in Nicaragua and their passion for souls.

In the next six months we are planning several outreaches, activities and ministries to really focus on growth, attendance and training. We really need your prayers as we endeavor to take a new step in the ministry here. We are looking at starting a children's ministry such as AWANA. Please pray for more workers to fulfill this need. We will be beginning a marriage bible study to meet this very important need in this culture. We also want to start a bible study in an area where there are many who have never really attended church before. Please pray for God's direction in the place and the timing. By the first of the new year we hope to return to a second semester of seminary classes to train future leaders for the ministry here. All of these ministries and more will require time, workers and patience. We covet your prayers as we seek to impact more lives for our Savior.

Together with you for Christ,

The Kratochvils

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