



Dear Pastor and Church,

November 21, 2008

We are reminded of how short time really is and the urgency to share the Gospel in the time that we have been given. On November 14th we returned to Nicaragua from a short visit to the US in which we were in about five conferences over a five week period. We knew there had been instability in the government and violence due to alleged fraud in the recent municipal elections, but we were anxious to get back to the church. For the last week we have been urged by the US Embassy here in Nicaragua not to leave our home if possible after 1:00pm each day. Streets have been filled with Sandinistas who believe they are protecting their victory by burning tires and vehicles, attacking news reporters, firing off homemade mortars and blocking all those who believe the election to be fraudulent from voicing their protest. We have watched news reports and talked to many people who have told us of how the recent violence is so similar to how the civil war began back in the 80's. Today, November 21st, the final announcement was given which declared the Sandinista party the victor. The opposition is not accepting this due to their belief that the election was "rigged". While the violence has ceased for the moment there is still the threat that foreign nations, including the US, may pull their aid to Nicaragua. This would mean certain death, economically, for this nation that already is the 2nd most poor in the western hemisphere. The split in leadership, the violence, threats of abandoning democracy, loss of foreign aid and the talk of another civil war are all things that could have definite influence on the future ministry and work of foreign missionaries in Nicaragua. Yet God's work still goes on! Now is the time to work with a renewed fervency to reach Nicaraguans for Christ, and train them to reach their own! We must build up the work so that they can continue even if the missionary had to leave for a period of time!

Hope Baptist Church continues to grow. Our children's and youth ministries are literally forcing our adults out of the building in which we are currently having services. We urgently need to construct a second floor in order that the ministry can continue to grow and move forward. We had an architect come to make plans and give us a quote on the cost of completing this project. The quote came in at \$40,000 which is a good price for the work that needs to be done. The church currently is filled to about 90% capacity. This second floor would ensure the possibility of future growth and give us the room to start new ministries such as AWANA. It would also negate the need of any future relocation. We currently have three men who have surrendered to full time ministry. One of those men, Valeriano, is currently attending our seminary and is a full time staff member. He could realistically become the Pastor of Hope Baptist Church in the near future. We need to ensure that he and the church has, at least, the chance to grow and move forward. Would you prayerfully consider helping us raise this necessary amount? Would you commit to praying for the church and the future of Nicaragua? We are so thankful for those who have already contributed, and for all of you who we know are praying for us and the work here. Together we truly can reach Nicaragua for Christ!

The Kratochvils

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