

# O N W A R D

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## To The Ends Of The Earth [ Acts 1:8 ]

Our journey began as we gathered in the fellowship hall of a small Moravian Church in Winston-Salem. Many of us were heading out on different missions around the world, but we all met to prepare ourselves for ministering to God's children wherever our journey took us. One large group was leaving the following week for Mississippi, two young ladies were preparing to depart for Tanzania and I came in response to those affected by Hurricane Felix in Nicaragua.

The director of volunteer ministries, Mark Ebert, cautioned that we would be traveling and experiencing cultures that would be foreign to our customs. No matter where our respective missions would take us, an open mind, patience and flexibility were essential. Our Bible devotions focused on responding to the physical and spiritual needs of all we encountered with a servant's heart. Moreover, we were to prepare for God to do something in our lives, because mission work is, inherently, a life-changing experience, unlike any other.

Fully inoculated and thoroughly packed, the first team of Moravian Disaster Response (or MDR) eagerly awaited departure for Nicaragua on January 18, 2008. The team included Mickey Grose from Reidsville, Tim Trollinger from Rural Hall, my father Jennings Snider from Hilton Head, our faithful director, Mark Ebert, from the family farm outside Winston and me, out of Charlotte. Joining the MDR team was our Miskito translator and invaluable guide, Kevin Frack, as well as our brilliant logistics coordinator Ray Griggs. We were all on loan from our gracious wives and families.

After four days in transit we arrived after dark in the village of Sukatpin (Pronounced Sue-cot-peen, which means woodpecker) west of Puerto Cabezas. We had reached what seemed to be the end of the earth. Electricity and telephone lines don't reach this far. There is no running

water or any infrastructure outside of what resembled a road through the middle of town. There were no vehicles to speak of, with the exception of bicycles.

Ray had recruited a local team to assist in our efforts to set-up and operate two relatively small saw-mills. (Relative in that they weighed nearly 500 pounds each and we were responsible for carrying them deep into the woods - no wheels on these models.)

We established camp on the floor of a community building similar to a raised, open-air picnic shelter. In the morning,

we saw that throughout the village the Brahma cows, small horses, pigs, dogs, chickens and children all roamed freely. Not



a word of English was spoken. The villagers all spoke Miskito. We could occasionally bridge our communication gap with what little Spanish we spoke and they could understand. We would greet them by saying, "Nocksa Nockisma," which is Miskito for "Hello, how are you?" They responded with a friendly smile and would say "pine" which translates as "good."

Evidence of the hurricane surrounded us. There were roofs draped with tarp, trees uprooted or snapped in half and some still lying where they fell. Since there was no evidence of a single piece of machinery in the entire village, prior attempts at clean up were accomplished with the local tool of choice, machetes. Some buildings were left leaning, while others were blown off their

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## Children Pray for Children

Want to engage a powerful ministry, either within the church, or in just your family? Spend a portion of every day teaching your children or grandchildren to pray for the world. Children love fellowship with other children and will easily build energy in a church ministry or draw a parent into what's going on in the 10/40 Window or in the new Global Christian South. Here are some ideas to get you going:

- ❖ Make a giant calendar with your children and put a new country or peoples on each week, then explore the internet/magazines for pictures of those children. Pray for them, their families, their schools, their church.
- ❖ Set a special time aside each day (or in your Sunday School class) where they pray for needs of children around the world, such as food, water, shoes, having a home to go to, etc.
- ❖ Take your child to the library and explore the global sections; exploring maps,

music, books in another language, artwork/crafts to try at home.

- ❖ Invite your children to bring home someone of another race or culture at their school and learn first-hand about their country.
- ❖ Thank God each day that children will be exposed to the Gospel of Jesus Christ somehow.
- ❖ Keep an ongoing list of things they can pray for for children that are forced to migrate, are abused, have no families, are hungry every day, seek love, and need Jesus.
- ❖ Ask God daily to open your eyes to see what is happening with children around the world; especially in war-torn areas. Petition God: How can we help? Show us ways to engage.



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