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## Sawmill Project Update from Ray Griggs

*On September 4, 2007 Hurricane Felix slammed into the east Coast of Nicaragua at a category 5 level. Although small in size the tremendous force of this extreme hurricane wind speed rating killed several hundred people and knocked down over 3.5 billion board feet of commercial lumber over an area approximately 60 miles wide (East to West) and 40 miles tall (North to South).*

### Praises...

Over 20,000 bf (board feet) of excellent quality Caribbean Pine lumber have been sawn so far. This is enough for 6 new houses here. My production goal was 1,000 bf per saw per day after a month of experience. The fellows were able to reach this goal after only 2 weeks of experience. Our goal for the next 2 months is to saw another 100,000 bf to help reconstruct 40+ houses (includes some partial houses) here in the village of Sukatpin.

The villagers of Sukatpin have been very helpful and motivated to haul logs, operate chainsaws, and assist in the operation of the sawmills while receiving NO pay. *Food for Work* is the way that we are motivating / slightly compensating the villagers of Sukatpin that are assisting with the hard work of hauling logs, sawing, and stacking lumber. Each volunteer receives between 2-3 pounds of food (combinations of rice, beans, flour, and/or sugar) per day.

### Challenges to pray about ....

Pray for the individuals and families affected by Hurricane Felix. There are still lots of families living under plastic tarps.

Pray for the relationship between MDR and ADSIM. MDR is encouraging ADSIM to learn to be better stewards of the resources in their charge.

Pray for the relationship between ADSIM and INAFOR (the Nicaraguan Forestry Agency) as we continue to serve the needs of the villagers East Coast who are the rightful owners of this downed resource.

Pray for the continued health and safety of all the workers involved.

Pray that we all walk in God's grace and peace as we join Him in his work here among the folks of the East Coast of Nicaragua. *Ray Griggs*

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