

## Antioch Project News

The Moravian Youth in Nicaragua have put out a call to the young people of North America in light of the destruction caused by Hurricane Felix on September 4<sup>th</sup>, 2007. They are calling this initiative “New Strengths.” We are gathering teams of people who would like to help in the rebuilding process. These teams will be made up of six people and will be teamed with six young people from Nicaragua to form a larger team of 12 people. This is an opportunity for us to join with our brothers and sisters in Christ as we face the reality of this terrible storm among God’s people. The combined team will be taken to a village and given a rebuilding project. The details for each trip will depend on the time and needs of that particular project. We will be planning trips beginning as early as February, if there are enough people to create a team. Allot 10-12 days for a trip which would include travel days, you will need an up to date passport and proper immunizations. Contact us if you are interested with your availability so that we can begin to form teams and schedule trips. I encourage you to consider if God is calling you to offer your time and strengths in this partnership of Christian sisters and brothers as we confront together the reality of our world and offer God’s hope to those in need.

You can mail Rebecca Craver at [rebecca@mcnp.org](mailto:rebecca@mcnp.org) or Sam Gray at [sgray@mcsp.org](mailto:sgray@mcsp.org)

## Escuela de Musica y Alabanza School of Music and Worship-Limon, Costa Rica

On Friday, January 18<sup>th</sup>, twelve men and women (ages 11 to 75) from five denominations (Baptist, Methodist, Independent Charismatic, Church of God and Moravian) became the first students to complete an intensive music course at the EMA—Escuela de Música y Alabanza - (School of Music and Worship) in Limón, Costa Rica. They could be considered the “first fruits” of a ministry that has been developing over the past few years through an amazing process. Here are some of the high points of the journey:

◆ In July, 2006, the BWM sent a team to Kathmandu, Nepal, to participate in the School of Music and Worship that is sponsored by Christian Arts Association Nepal (CAAN). Sister Nola Knouse, Director of the Moravian Music Foundation, was part of that team. Besides offering helpful classes at the school (most notably a hymnwriting class that produced the wonderful hymn, “Christ Went To Calvary For Me”) she was also able to make some important observations about the school and how similar principles could be applied to others such Schools of Music and Worship throughout the Unity.

◆ In 2007, several meetings were held with the Provincial Board of the Moravian Church in Costa Rica and with the Ecumenical Associations of Limon, Costa Rica, to explore the possibility of starting a School of Music and Worship in Limon. It was exciting to see pastors and leaders from the “historical churches” as well as from the independent charismatic churches coming on board with the vision for this ministry. In August, 2007 the following denominations officially “signed on” to be part of the ecumenical endeavor that would result in a music school: Episcopal, Baptist, Independent Baptist, Catholic, Methodist, Salvation Army, Tabernacle of Power and Moravian.

◆ January 4, 5, and 6, 2008, Sister Nola

Knouse met with the Ecumenical School of Music Committee in Limon (as well as with the Moravian Provincial Board) to finalize plans for the curriculum and calendar for the school (based on her observations from Nepal as well as on her experience and expertise in that area).

On Saturday, January 12<sup>th</sup> an all-day Workshop for Worship Leaders and Music Ministers was held. The response was indicative of the desire for growth in these areas: 29 people (including 4 workshop leaders) from 5 denominations attended the workshop, which focused on worship planning, history and theology of worship and other practical considerations such as instrumentation, worship space, church calendar, etc. *Continued on Page 8*

**Lots of music was learned in one week! But the greater joy was the experience of praising God together with sisters and brothers of all ages and from different denominations and theological perspectives.**

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