

A Message From Our President



It was 1948 when a young Baptist minister from Charlotte North Carolina started a small mission ministry in Los Angeles without much notice from the media. By 1949 a Los Angeles crusade that was scheduled for three weeks was extended to more than eight weeks with overflow crowds filling a tent erected in the downtown area each night. Today at age 88 that young man has preached the gospel to more people than anyone else – nearly 215 million people in more than 185 countries. That young man is none other than the Rev. Billy Graham. Evangelist Billy Graham took Christ literally when he said in Mark 16:15 “Go ye into the world and preach the Gospel to every creature.”

As we received reports from the mis-

sionaries that we support I was struck by an update from Michael and Brenda Brent on their student ministry in Western Europe. Conditions do not allow them to hold crusades. This part of the world is predominantly Muslim and non-believers which causes their ministry to rely on subtle contacts. Since last fall they have engaged approximately 300 students in conversations about the gospel of Jesus Christ. Four students have placed their faith in Jesus Christ and two were baptized.

We also received reports from Louis and Susan Sutton in Fort Washington, PA who spend a large part of their ministry communicating with, training, visiting and caring for the large flock of missionaries on the front lines sharing the love of Jesus Christ. The spiritual health of our mission-

aries is essential in spreading the gospel.

These are small but significant victories in the mission field. Regardless of the size of each mission, there is always the potential to reach someone outside our immediate circle thru Christ. The mission field is like the parable in Matthew 13:31-32 “The kingdom of heaven is like a mustard seed, which a man took and planted in his field. Which indeed is the least of all seeds; but when it is grown it is greater than the herbs and becomes a tree, so that the birds of the air come and nest on its branches”. As our missionaries plant the gospel in the mission fields we will see fruits from their labor.

Evon Crooks, President, Mission Society, Southern Province and a member of New

“All Things Love”; Village Unity in Nicaragua

Immediately after landing in Managua, I piled into a Ford SUV with seven members of CLAI (Council of Latin American Churches) and began the seventeen hour drive through central Nicaragua to Puerto Cabezas. I used to think my family's four hour drives to Myrtle Beach were long! When we arrived at our destination, my first task was to deliver around 2000 emergency Miskitu hymnals to the provincial office. Many of the churches in the surrounding areas had lost the hardback hymnals to water damage from Hurricane Felix and were overjoyed to once again have access to those cherished hymns.

“In those moments, unable to hear or see clearly, I realized I had seen the true meaning of ‘all things love.’”

Over the next week, I traveled with the ecumenical team from CLAI to three communities in the North Atlantic region of Nicaragua who were significantly affected by Felix. We were greeted by the smiling faces of children playing on the outskirts of each village. As our truck slowed, one by one the curious kids jumped in the back and began calling out to everyone within earshot to come quickly! In what seemed like seconds, entire villages assembled and began making food, building fires and tuning guitars in anticipation of the evening. The team led a worship service around the campfire and following the

closing song, a hot roll and coffee were served to all. It was during these simple meals that I really began to see how the villages were truly leaning on their brothers and sisters to get through this natural disaster. Adults took turns standing near the fire thanking the village members for giving them food when flood waters carried their rice away or praying for the workers who walked miles to help them rebuild a house. Teenagers picked up guitars to sing songs of thanksgiving and praise. Finally, as the fair faded, couples gathered to stare at the moon and pray for their families.



ing as I laid in the back of a pickup truck driving down a dirt road back to Puerto Cabezas. The wind was deafeningly loud and the dust from the road hung in the air

like a thick fog. I just laid there remembering how everyone in the villages worked together for each other. If there was a need, the entire village would work to fulfill that need for one person. In those moments, unable to hear or see clearly, I realized I had

seen the true meaning of “all things love.”

Submitted by Thomas Baucom, Raleigh, North Carolina, Holly Springs Moravian

I was deeply and visibly saddened when I awoke the next morning and was finally able to see the true extent of the damage from the hurricane. In one village, the church was completely destroyed leaving nothing but crumbling outer walls. In another, the main school building was now without a roof except for a thin plastic tarp. I remembered the stories of loved ones who were lost in the hurricane as I looked at vacant houses. In the midst of all of this sadness on my part, I saw groups of children playing soccer and drawing pictures. I saw families gathered around one a porch sharing breakfast and laughing and villages that was joyous. I still remember the feel-

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