

CRAWFORD CONNECTION

UPHELD BY PRAYER

Our first trip to Nicaragua as associate missionaries with the Latin America Area was cut short by a few days because unrest in the country, yet we sensed God's clear guidance and presence during our time there, upheld by your prayers. We were warmly welcomed by Pastor Hiuberth, our mission district director at the airport Wednesday night. Thursday morning Pastor Hiuberth took us to visit both of our

Prayer Connection

First... Thank you for your prayers which God abundantly answered!

Prayer requests:

1. We praise God that our schools are scheduled to re-open tomorrow! Pray the children will re-engage well despite last week's events.
2. For Nicaragua, pray for peaceful long term solutions, including provision despite food shortages.
3. For wisdom for mission district leader Pastor Hiuberth as he directs church planting efforts in Nicaragua.
4. For our schools and their directors, Jenny and Irma. That conversations may continue regarding the possible partnership in improving the medical care of the children.
5. For Betsy as she travels to Puerto Rico, and the VISA team from Omak, WA.
6. For wisdom and grace as we continue to connect with the missionary families in the Latin America Area. We hope to share about these amazing people in future newsletters!



Free Methodist schools, which combined have almost 600 children. These schools have many ICCM (International Child Care Ministries) sponsored children. Guy had good conversations with the principals about the medical needs of the children. We are so thankful we were able to visit the schools on Thursday, an answer to prayer!

At the school Principal Jenny told us that because of protests that began on Wednesday schools were to be closed on Friday. It became apparent that public resentment and frustration had been building for some time, and government plans to change Nicaragua's social security system, putting strain on the incomes of workers and pensioners triggered these protests throughout the country. (For more news on this, see this news link: <http://fmcusa.org/blog/2018/04/25/unrest-in-nicaragua/>).

Pastor Hiuberth (photo) wanted us to see the beauty of Nicaragua and get to know its rich culture, so on Thursday afternoon and on Friday he took us on a tour of the city of Managua, the nearby colonial cities of Masaya and Granada and to Lake Nicaragua, the largest fresh water lake in Central America. We are thankful for Pastor Hiuberth's hospitality and insights into Nicaragua. As we drove back into the city on Friday, we saw crowds gathering in protest. Friday night there were

The goal of the Latin America Area:
The goal of Free Methodist World Missions in Latin America is to fuel and sustain a biblical movement to reach Latin Americans for Christ.

This will happen by:

- *Empowering and coaching national leaders to multiply disciples, groups, leaders, and churches.*
- *Catalyzing initiatives and partnerships to plant clusters of churches in strategic cities.*

You can read more about the Latin America Area at: <http://latinamericaarea.com>

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We are self-supporting missionaries, but if you would like to give towards our travel and ministry costs, this is our giving page:

<https://give.fmcusa.org/donation/df-aslacrawford>

sounds of explosions and trouble nearby.

Saturday morning we received a warning from our airline that we could rearrange our travel plans if we wished to leave, and we also asked for advice from Pastor Hiuberth and Dr. Delia, our Area Director. Many were praying, and we sensed peace and confirmation that it would be best to leave. God provided a flight on Saturday. We found out later that the airport closed three hours after we left!

Pastor Hiuberth later shared that Sunday he proceeded with the planned Community Church Planting (CCP) meeting with the leaders who are reaching out into the communities of Nicaragua. Soon after they finished there was violence in the same neighborhood as the church and school.

There have been large peaceful protests reported this week. Pray that peaceful solutions for the long term will result, and that God will provide every need for our brothers and sisters.

We pray we will be able to return soon and continue our conversation and partner with our friends!

PUERTO RICO VISIT

This Friday, April 27- May 3rd Betsy will travel to Puerto Rico to serve as interpreter for a VISA group from Omak, Washington, led by Mike McCune. This group continues with hurricane relief, working in construction of damaged buildings.

