

Gateway Missions



April 2009

Nicaragua Pastor's Conference Report

“For me there is always a moment at the end of a mission trip when you attempt to put into words what you have experienced because you know you will be asked. Often you think of one or two things that you really enjoyed. Sometimes it takes the shape of a recounting of events that made up the experience. However, the presence of the Spirit of God was so strong for all of us on this trip that we knew no break in communion with Him and how do you describe that?” Mary Liechty, LakeShore Church, Rockwall, Texas

Every conference has its own characteristics that makes it distinct and special. So it is difficult for me to put into words what we experienced in Nicaragua. We always have pastors and church leaders from various denominational backgrounds who would not normally be together in the same venue. God seemed to be at work from the very beginning. Each teaching was divinely woven into the next. In every ministry time people were healed physically, emotionally and spiritually. Each day people would come and share with the team how God had touched their lives and that their vision had been not only renewed, but increased. They now had tools that would enable them to equip their congregations.



Something very special happened during this conference that has never happened to me before and may very well never happen again. But to deny it would be great transgression. There are many references in the scriptures concerning what I experienced. It happened on the last day of the conference. The morning was filled with expectation. Pastor Jaime Useche from Leticia, Colombia preached a powerful message of healing and restoration. After breaking for lunch we resumed our meeting by having a time of praise and worship which was to be followed with me leading a communion service for over two hundred people. Claudia, one of our translators and worship leader led us into the very presence of God. I have been in some powerful worship times, but nothing like this. During this time I was moved so deeply that I knelt down on the floor. After a few moments I became strangely aware of a Presence in the room and sensed I was to look up. As I looked up, I saw an angel in each corner of the room and the Holy Spirit was moving like a river of mist in and out of the aisles touching and healing people. Immediately after that I moved to the platform and described what I had seen and then ministered communion. The next day as we were traveling home, our team leader David Shields asked me if his wife Dorthea had told me what had happened just prior to my going to the platform. Of course I did not know what they were talking about. Dorthea began to tell me that one of the men in the praise and worship team was speaking in Spanish to the other worship leaders saying he saw the same exact thing confirming what I had seen. Unquestionably he had no idea at the time what I was experiencing. What's more, he was too far from me to hear him and he was speaking in Spanish which I do not speak.

Please believe me when I say it was one of the most challenging experiences to stand before a group of people and try to verbalize what I had just seen. That same Holy fear invades me now as I write this to you. But let me assure you that the invisible world is more real than the physical world we see around us. Throughout scripture we find many references to angels appearing to individuals and many of the Bible characters were taken into heaven or saw visions. I do not know fully how to explain what I saw, but I am convinced that God wants to reveal Himself to us through His Word, through His Son Jesus and by divine revelation.

He will go to great lengths to reach us, because He loves us so much. I realize this must might sound out of the ordinary, but if you know me you know I would not deceive you or misguide you in any way.

If the Lord had not been my help... (Ps 94:17)



Pastor Pedro Gutierrez, an ex gang member, and Ken Masse, a retired Los Angeles police detective, met at our Pastor's conference in Jinotepe, Nicaragua.

Pedro who is originally from Nicaragua had moved with his family to Los Angeles California to escape the civil war that brought the Marxist Sandinista guerrillas to power in 1979. Pastor Pedro found Christ as a teenage gang member in a Los Angeles jail. He is a Pastor with nationwide experience coordinating leadership conferences. He oversees the TBII ministry in Nicaragua and Central America. Pete and Zureya, his wife, have three children.

Ken is a thirty-five year veteran of the Los Angeles Police Department where he retired as a detective in the drug enforcement division. He now using his leadership skills to train pastors and church leaders around the world.

They are two men who had a destiny with God.
How different their meeting could have been had it not been for the Lord!



San Jose Mission
San Antonio, Texas

We had a fun time with our son Brant and his friend Sofia in San Antonio recently. They were great tour guides. We went to a museum, sampled local cuisine and visited two old missions there. We had the opportunity to go to the FOX affiliate where Brant works and watch him work on the San Antonio Spurs game live. It is very interesting, but very intense. Too many monitors and switches! We are proud of Brant and always enjoy our times together.

God loves a cheerful giver. And God is able to make all grace abound toward you, that you, always having all sufficiency in all things, may have an abundance for every good work. 2 Cor. 9:7-8 [NKJ]

Ibague, Colombia

In May I will be with Pastors Henry Holland and Jaime Useche. It will be my first trip to Colombia and am looking forward to being with them. Jaime has over 35 churches with 8,000 adult members. He is the director of Amazon Ministries International, located in Leticia, Columbia, South America. Jaime also serves as director of Youth With A Mission (YWAM) in Columbia, called "Juventud con una Mision" (JuCUM) in Spanish. The team that just returned from Nicaragua was invited to join Jaime in Ecuador in 2010. It is a remarkable opportunity to be invited to minister along side this gentle giant.



"I came so discouraged and ready to quit, but now I have a whole new vision for what God has called me to do"
-Quote from a Nicaraguan pastor

Thank you for your consistent prayers and financial giving. Your partnership with Gateway Missions makes it possible for us to have a lasting impact in the lives and ministries of many pastors and church leaders who would otherwise be forgotten.

In Christ who loved us first,
Gary and Jane Ann
Gary and Jane Ann

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