



Dear Friends and Family,

A young mother rocks her six-month old softly, trying to comfort him as he cries uncontrollably, gasping for air. The baby craves oxygen, but can't communicate to his mother what he so desperately needs. His weak immune system is no match for the sores and scabs that cover his fragile body. The mother knows her baby needs help, but the closest hospital is three hours away by jeep – not that anyone in the village can afford the fare or hospital bill. The mother cannot help her son.

At the church in the next village, a spirited group of Americans and Ticos arrives. Their enthusiasm is shared, but concealed by their shy Indian hosts. The team unloads suitcase after suitcase of medicine and supplies. Patients begin to arrive. One by one. Family by family. By foot. Many have walked for several hours...including the young mother, carrying her baby.

The doctors move quickly to help the little boy, starting him on a breathing treatment. Temporary relief. He needs to go to the hospital. The group's driver offers his services. Others take up a collection to pay for the trip. The mother weeps with gratitude as they leave in the driver's 4x4.

Within the hour the baby has stopped breathing completely. Providentially, an ambulance is able to meet the truck in town to carry them the rest of the way to the hospital. They're just in time. The boy survives. He's going to be okay. The mother holds her son tightly, whispering prayers of thanks to God as she rocks him. The baby sleeps peacefully.

This is one of the miracles we witnessed in Costa Rica. *God* set the events in motion that day. We just showed up. Then *He showed up*. And saved the day. Reminds me of another *miracle baby*...

“...but the angel reassured them. ‘Don’t be afraid!’ he said. ‘I bring you good news that will bring great joy to all people. The Savior—yes, the Messiah, the Lord—has been born today in Bethlehem, the city of David! And you will recognize him by this sign: You will find a baby wrapped snugly in strips of cloth, lying in a manger.’”  
– Luke 2:10-12

This Christmas we thank God for the miracle of His Son. And we look forward to witnessing more miracles through the new ministry we'll be joining next year: Christ for the City, Nicaragua. We hope you'll enjoy hearing more stories (through letters and blog posts at [missionsminded.org](http://missionsminded.org)) – and even partnering with us in the work that God has planned. But most of all, we hope that the Miracle of Jesus and His message of hope brings joy to your family this Christmas.

With Love,

Nathan & Amber