

[Mission] Field notes



Ministry Moments and
Nicaragua News from
Amber & Nathan

Our Difficult Decision: Leaving the Mission Field of Nicaragua, Returning to the U.S. in February 2010

After many, many months of praying, seeking wise counsel, and “wrestling” with the decision, Amber and I have concluded that God is calling us to leave the mission field at the end of our two years in Nicaragua. We will finish our time with Christ for the City International in Nicaragua on February 26, 2010. This was not an easy decision for us (as you can imagine), but in the end we could not deny this fact: just as clearly as we heard God’s call to Central America four years ago, we now hear him calling us to return.

The most difficult part about this is saying goodbye to our friends, neighbors, and teammates in Nicaragua – *and* leaving an organization that we love dearly, Christ for the City. But we are comforted by the fact that God has a plan: for the country of Nicaragua, for the CFCI base in Managua, and for our “hermanos y hermanas” (brothers and sisters) scattered across this country. **The people of Nicaragua *and* the amazing missionaries and workers with CFCI (in-country and in the United States) will forever remain in our hearts and in our prayers.**

Amber and I would like to thank our amazing supporters – our team of donors, encouragers, and prayer warriors – for being our rocks for the past 3+ years, from Costa Rica to Nicaragua. Many of you have been with us from the very beginning. And many others have crossed our path along the way – either on a short-term mission team or through ~~random chance~~ providence: finding our blog, hearing about us through a friend, or just dropping in on us in Costa Rica or Nicaragua! **We are eternally grateful for your love and support. We’ve always considered you our *travel companions* on this amazing journey – and we hope you were as blessed by this partnership as we have been. *From the bottom of our hearts, thank you.***

What’s next for us? We aren’t *entirely* sure! We know that we would like to live much closer to family, raising our little one (whenever he/she gets here!) in a family community. This is one “lesson” from our time in Latin America that we feel very strongly about: children should be raised by loving parents...*and* grandparents, aunts, uncles, cousins, friends, and neighbors! **Nicaraguan culture is all about relationships – especially family relationships. We want to bring that back with us to the United States.** The other part we know is that Nathan will be pursuing a dream he’s had since childhood: working in politics (either on the staff of a congressman or a campaign). We don’t know where or with whom just yet, but we’re seeking God and praying for open doors. We’ll update you when we know more.

Finally, we want to express our deep desire that you will continue in your involvement in overseas ministry – specifically in Nicaragua! Obviously, we greatly appreciate your financial support through February. But what about after that? We want to tell you about some amazing opportunities – and some amazing people – we will be supporting, and hope you will too! (Continue on to Page 2 for more details.)

But my life is worth nothing to me unless I use it for finishing the work assigned me by the Lord Jesus – the work of telling others the Good News about the wonderful grace of God. – Acts 20:24

Headlines

- After many months of prayer, we have decided that God is calling us back to the U.S. We will finish our time in Nicaragua in February 2010.
- We went to Florida for two weeks in Sep., taking care of Nathan’s three cousins while their parents were in China adopting their daughter!
- We served with our CFCI teammates and Nica church volunteers at a medical outreach in San Cayetano.

Praise Reports

- Praise God for speaking to Hellen Castro’s heart! She has accepted the role as Nueva Imagen’s director!
- We praise God for your prayers and support – especially for our adoption!

Prayer Requests

- Pray for the women’s team from Seacoast, serving w/ Nueva Imagen and hosting a retreat for Nicaraguan pastors’ wives. (Oct. 26 – Nov. 3)
- Pray for the **Nueva Imagen** women: for more to accept Jesus and have a means for providing for their families (with help from committed sponsors).
- Please continue praying for **Baby Babcock!** ([More information here.](#))
- Pray for our **November trip** to NC, SC, and TN to visit family & friends.
- Please pray for **our transition** from life on the mission field to life (and new careers) in the United States.

Ways You Can Stay Involved in Nicaraguan Ministry:

I. Pray. First and foremost, we ask that you continue praying for the ministries (both CFCI-Nicaragua and Nueva Imagen) and pray for the people of Nicaragua!

II. Give. If you would like to be a financial partner in ministry, there are several opportunities:

1. Support our new base directors: **Fabricio and Claudia Mendoza.**

2. Support the scholarship fund: **Escuela Esperanza.**

3. Support the base with **CFCI-Nicaragua general funds** for monthly operating expenses and ministry activities.

4. Our close Nicaraguan friend and colleague, **Hellen Castro**, will be serving as Nueva Imagen's full-time director. She is taking an amazing ~~step~~ leap of faith to do this important work, relying on financial supporters for 100 percent of her monthly living expenses. We are praying for people to partner in prayer and monthly support with Hellen.

5. Finally, we are praying for **Nueva Imagen sponsors** and...

6. **General operating funds for Nueva Imagen.**

You can donate with your debit or credit card at www.cfi.org

OR mail a check to:

Christ for the City International
PO Box 390395
Omaha, NE 68139

Please specify one of the six designations listed above in **bold**.

Thank you for your continued support for these ministries!

National Medical Outreach in San Cayetano, Nicaragua

On a Saturday in October, several members of the CFCI-Nicaragua team served with Nicaraguan doctors, nurses, and church volunteers in the village of San Cayetano, Nicaragua for a one-day medical clinic. Nathan worked in the pharmacy (as he usually does when he's with medical teams) while Amber handed out and explained the medications to the patients. It was a blessing to serve the people of San Cayetano – and to serve alongside the brothers and sisters of the church there. We also enjoyed an amazing fried chicken lunch together!

Seacoast Women's Team: October 26 - November 3

We are very excited about our *very first all-women's* short-term mission team! Seven ladies from Seacoast Church will serve the women in the Nueva Imagen program for three days, teaching them a skill (how to make jewelry to sell) and enjoying times of fellowship and Bible study. The team will also host a weekend women's retreat for the wives of Nicaraguan pastors! Nicaraguan women, specifically pastors' wives, do not often have the opportunity to enjoy retreats like this; we're looking forward to a weekend of fun "girl time" with them!

Adoption Update

Unfortunately, the adoption has run into a major snag recently: the adoption office here in Managua has been closed for the past 8 weeks. **We are asking our friends, family, and supporters to pray for the office to re-open and for the council to approve us ASAP!** Thank you so much for your prayers and encouragement. We remain confident that *Baby Babcock* will be with us very soon!

Nueva Imagen News & Notes

As you can imagine, the women in the Nueva Imagen program experience countless trials – plus emotional, physical, and spiritual attacks. We teach the women how to prepare for *spiritual battle*. It's very clear why these attacks are so strong: the enemy doesn't want these women to go *from darkness to the light*. Through all of the attacks and trials, they are growing – applying the Word in their lives, thirsting to learn more about God. This week **16 women** come to the bible study; most participated in the discussion, asking questions and sharing.

A sweet missionary, Lauren, is teaching the women to make mosaic products. Once they master the skill, we will sell products (like the picture frames below) in local markets and to mission teams. The Seacoast women's team, arriving in just two weeks, will teach the women how to make jewelry. The hope is that we can start a *Nueva Imagen business* to support the women and the ministry.



Hellen Castro has accepted the invitation to become Nueva Imagen's administrator and executive director! We are thankful for her obedience to God's calling on her life – and can't wait to see what God does through her!

Three months ago we had a *divine appointment* with two Americans, Kyle and Margo, on vacation in Nicaragua. We met for dinner one night and it just so happens that Margo writes grant proposals for a living...exactly what we need help with! Armed with *countless hours* of help and encouragement from Margo, I've been busy working on grant applications, board of director by-laws, and policies. What a faith-building experience this has been!

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