



# The Chronicles of Katie

## One by One

This year has been hard, but good. When I returned to Nicaragua after spending the holidays with my family in Michigan, I had to lead two Saturday services without Jeremy here. Although I have been in the role of Children's Director, Jeremy is always on the stage and does a lot of the leading on Saturday mornings because his Spanish is better. Leading the services myself was fun and rewarding, but also a bit frustrating.

Every week we have competitions between the boys and the girls. These are supposed to be fun for the kids, and they assist with behavior control.

The first week that I led the services, the boys were losing so badly that they stopped participating. As you can imagine, it is very discouraging when you're

on stage and you can see that the boys are not having as much fun as usual.

After the service I was very discouraged. However, my wonderful friends were very supportive and encouraging. They helped me come up with creative solutions to improve the next service. Praise God! He has provided an amazing support system for me here!

The next week we implemented the changes and things went much better. I'm glad we're not expected to do everything perfectly the first time! We just need to take the opportunity to learn when things don't go well or when we make mistakes. I pray that I will always be willing to learn when faced with challenges or when my mistakes are pointed out to me.



Also, in January, we hired a part time employee. Ileana O'Neill is a young Nicaraguan woman who is helping with the youth program, as well as with translation of documents. She and I are sharing an office and it's a blast! We've become good friends and are always joking with each other and giving each other a hard time.

We'd like to hire her full-time, but can't afford to at this time. If you would like to help support her you can do so at [onebyonemissions.com](http://onebyonemissions.com)

## Oops, Did I Say That??

This has been a month of blunders for me. I've made quite a few significant mistakes when speaking Spanish lately.

Thankfully, they've mostly been around friends who are more understanding than other people might be. My most embarrassing blunder was this...

Dan was in my office speaking with Ileana about a video they were making for the youth. Dan left a wig (*peluca*) on my desk. As he was leaving my office I asked him if he wanted his *pechuga* (breast). OOPS!

Dan understood what I meant and ignored me, but

Ileana almost died laughing.

Ileana has greatly helped my Spanish, even though she makes fun of my accent all the time. Because of Ileana's teasing, another friend told me that my accent has improved significantly over the last month!

### Prayer Requests:

- *That the kids and youth services will continue to improve and draw new believers closer to Christ.*
- *Finances - both my personal support and finances for the ministry.*
- *Favor for The Refuge Project from the government, and finances for the project.*
- *My continued Spanish education*

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NICARAGUA

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*I'd like to thank each of you for your prayers and support. Without the support you provide I would not have this amazing opportunity to reach out to the children and youth of Nicaragua. My financial support is still not at 100%, but God is good and always provides for our needs. I will be back in the States this summer working to raise more support. I will try to share more details about all that is going on down here with everyone that I can.*

*I'm still working on research for The Refuge Project and the process is moving along. We're working on getting government recognition which can be a long process. Please be in prayer about this as it is a huge step and is absolutely necessary! I know that there are many girls and boys down here who are hurting and think there is no hope. I want to do as much as I can, as soon as possible, to help get these kids out of these situations. We're hoping to have our first site up and running early next year, but there is a lot to be done before then. Please also pray that God will provide workers, strategies, and open hearts that are ready to receive love, life, and hope!*

*Sincerely,*

*Katie Loos*

## Mom and Dad in Nicaragua!

In January my parents came to visit me in Nicaragua. We had a great time, even though Nicaraguan traffic and drivers nearly scared them to death!

They arrived on a Thursday evening and I had the day off on Friday so I could spend it with them showing them around Managua. We went to the church and they met several of my friends. We had a great time laughing and joking. My friends liked making fun of Mom's name (Kay), because it sounds like the word "que." In Spanish this means "What?"

I asked what my parents thought of my friends: "They're a lot like the friends you have in The States." Mom and Dad really liked them. Wheew!

On Saturday we had kids and youth services as usual. My parents were able to see what I do, and were even asked to participate in the youth service. It was an amazing time getting to share what I do with my parents!

On Sunday we drove out of town to the city of Matagalpa. There we visited a coffee plantation called Selva Negra. We took a guided tour of the estates and learned about the coffee growing process. On the way back to Managua the next day we visited a coffee mill whose owner I know. They were very gracious and gave us a tour also.



Since we all love coffee, this was a great weekend event and learning experience.

On Tuesday, sadly, Mom and Dad flew back home. I had a great time with my parents here and look forward to a return visit from them soon! I know it will probably be a while, but it was a great blessing to have them here. My friends all loved my parents and were impressed that they would travel so far to visit and support me. I'm so blessed to have such supportive and loving parents! For more about their visit go to [travelingkatie.com](http://travelingkatie.com)



Oscar, Ileana, Lester, and Jose