



The Chronicles of Katie

One by One

The children's and youth services have been going well. We're continually asking ourselves what we can do to make the services better.

At the beginning of the year the youth services were very hard for us. We weren't sure if the youth really wanted to be there or not because often times they'd talk during the service or get up and walk around. We've made some small changes and seen a huge difference!

One week the bus that goes to pick up the youth kids was a little later than normal so about half of the kids walked to the church. It's about a 45 minute walk!

We're able to see that the kids are enjoying the services, inviting their friends, and paying better attention now.

In addition to the youth services going well, the children's services continue to go well. At times, though, it can get difficult with 150-200 kids!

The main challenge we have with the kids is the exit. The first service we had, one year ago in May, the exit was a complete disaster and ever since we have been trying to improve it. We finally feel that we have found the solution, but it has only been through a lot of trial and error. There is still room for more improvement!

In June we have two short-term missions teams coming to work with us. One is from Wildwood Church in Norman, OK and the other is from Woodcreek Church in Dallas, TX. The two teams are coming one day apart

and will be very busy with both ministry events and physical work.

One team will be painting the offices at the church and converting some of the classrooms at the church into housing for children when we start The Refuge Project. The other team will be working at House of Hope and doing ministry events with us.

A week after the second team leaves, most of the staff will be traveling to the USA to continue their fundraising. There are more details about my trip on the next page.

While we are in the states we will not have children's services, however, we are going to continue with the youth. Please pray that the services go well these three weeks and for those who remain in Nicaragua to conduct them.

Oops, Did I Say That??

My Spanish continues to improve, and I haven't made any really funny/bad mistakes recently. I've been told that at times I have a Mexican accent. I'm not sure how that happened since I'm around Nicaraguans all the time and not Mexicans! I have, however, noticed that sometimes when I'm

speaking English I have a Latin accent.

I'm to the point now where it's hard to speak English after having spoken Spanish during the day.

I find myself constructing sentences in English the way they would be done in Spanish. There are also times when someone will

ask how to say something in English and I honestly can't remember.

Although this can be frustrating at times, I think (and hope) that it means I'm doing well with my new language, and that I'm adjusting well to speaking it!

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*

one by one

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 will be in Greenville, SC June 28-30 and July 10-16 and I will be in Minnesota July 2-8. Please let me know if you'd like to meet with me while I'm in your area!

I'm really looking forward to coming to the states and getting to see family and friends again. I believe this will be my only trip this year and I hope to be able to make the most of it. I'm also very excited that Ileana, a co-worker and great friend, will be able to come with me to Greenville for a week! It will be great to be able to show my country to one of my Nicaraguan friends, yet still have a part of Nicaragua with me!

Sincerely,

Katie Loos

Matagalpa, Sidney Kathleen, and Lindley

In May I went to Matagalpa again with my friends Oscar and Arlen and their family. It was a fun and relaxing trip. One day we took a walk from Arlen's sister's house to her brother's house. It was a long walk across town and up a mountain! It was a tiring walk, but worth it as we reached the top just as the sun was setting.

Oscar, Arlen, (8½ months pregnant) and Jacksel



Me with Ronnie and Jacksel

On Sunday, May 16th Arlen gave birth to a their forth child, Sidney Kathleen (named after me). It's very humbling and amazing to have someone name their child after you. I feel somehow even more responsible for her now! I'm known as Tia Katy (Aunt Katie) to the kids.

Sidney and Arlen went home on Monday and were only home for 2 1/2 days before returning to the hospital because Sidney was sick with pneumonia. After 8 days in the hospital they were finally able to go home. The family was extremely excited to finally be together again.



The day after Arlen and Sidney came home Dan and I stopped for a brief visit. The kids were playing around Dan's motorcycle and it fell on Lindley (pictured above), their two and a half year old daughter. They took her to the hospital because her leg was inflamed. They found out that her leg was fractured and she needed a full-leg cast. She's in good spirits, though, and doesn't seem to be bothered by the cast.



Oscar and Arlen's family feel blessed that there is a team coming from Canada to build a house for them! Construction begins soon, so they will move into the church until their house is ready. Please pray for this family, that has become my own, in this stressful time.