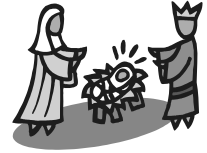




Amigos for Christ



Christmas 2006

www.AmigosForChrist.org

What do you Need?

Have you ever asked that question and been amazed by what you hear? Especially if the answer comes back with such humility and sincerity...

After traveling over some of the worst roads rural Nicaragua has to offer, we posed this question to 15 community leaders. The overwhelming answer was... "a small amount of capital to farm or buy animals so we can live instead of exist".

"We want to produce this year so we have a little left over to invest for next year...but we have to pay the moneylenders 48% interest to borrow money so we can plant. After we pay them back, there is nothing left over. If we don't pay them back, they come and take away what little we have. We can never escape from this cycle..."

These words from Antonio Ponce, community leader at Miguel Cristiano, were echoed by the others. Imagine 48% interest!

The poor in Nicaragua know how to survive, but God wants us all to thrive...

With farmland that ranks in the top ten in the entire world in fertility, life should not be so hard in Nicaragua.

We learned that with a small amount, low interest loan or micro credit, you can grow enough to feed your family, pay back your loan, and have something left to reinvest in the next cycle. You can become self-sufficient.

We learned that if you own a cow, a pig, a sheep, or chickens, you could continually provide food or a reliable income for your family.

In the communities we serve, we will continue to help build sturdy, safe homes, health clinics, schools, and churches. We will drill water wells to provide clean drinking water and sources to irrigate crops...

But an undeniable need exists among the poor of rural Nicaragua, who struggle to survive on less than \$1/day...

Homecoming Day

For Gladys Rivas and her family, homecoming meant joining 115 other families in an emotional walk across the field separating "old Villa Catalina" from "new Villa Catalina." Gladys' family was the last to move into their champa back in 2004, a symbolic gesture of triumph over the hopelessness of El Limonal.



The Rivas family and their neighbors are now residents of sturdy concrete dwellings that will withstand the region's powerful climate patterns. It is with joy that we wish all of these families many years of happiness and prosperity in their new homes. It is with pride that we acknowledge the persistence that brought them there. It is with faith that we resolve to walk beside them, friends and supporters for many years to come.



You in Your mercy have led forth the people whom you have redeemed; You have guided them in Your strength to Your holy habitation.

Exodus 15:13



Pay It Forward This Christmas



Our Inspiration

Those who attended a fundraiser benefiting the Knights of Columbus at Prince of Peace Church in October truly understand how to use their many blessings to **"pay it forward"**. At the event, attendants bought raffle tickets to bid on items in the live auction at the end of the event. Each raffle ticket was given the imaginary value of \$5000. Auction items ranged from artwork to sports memorabilia, but the focal point was the **giant 32" Magnavox Flat Screen TV** displayed for all to see. As participants determined their wish lists, Kelly Floress contemplated a different agenda. Soon, over half of the room was literally *buying* into her spur-of-the-moment idea. Their plan was to combine their raffle tickets, bid on the Magnavox Flat Screen TV, and donate it to Amigos for Christ for future fundraising efforts. At the moment of truth, Kelly held over 4 million dollars worth of tickets in her hands. After a tense round of bidding on the TV, Kelly's generous campaign had won. These compassionate actions inspired us to *pay it forward* this holiday season. We want to **pass the giant TV on to someone** in the generous Amigos for Christ community, while also inviting you to pass on your gifts to our community in Nicaragua.

Our Invitation to You

This holiday season, we urge you to **pay it forward!** Help the families in Villa Catalina, and buy Christmas gifts for friends and family at the same time. This year, change your routine of holiday giving, and make a contribution that expands far beyond your relationships. Honor your friends and family members by making a donation in their name. We will send them a greeting card with the beautiful artwork shown above, explaining how we used the contribution. Each home costs \$3,800, and every donation, no matter the size, is part of the long line of generosity that has created the promising community of Villa Catalina. Your gifts will be used to finish the remaining 60 homes in Villa Catalina and will also give you the opportunity to win the **giant 32" Magnavox Flat Screen TV**. But, it doesn't end there; we invite you to *pay it forward* by designating someone else to receive the giant TV. More information is located on the insert included with this newsletter. Help us continue the amazing story of Villa Catalina, and **pay it forward** by honoring your friends and family this Christmas, while helping your friends and family in Nicaragua.

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