

Amigos for Christ

Summer 2005

www.AmigosForChrist.org

Meet the Juan Rostran Family

Juan and his wife, Liscila, are the proud residents of Champa A-06, Villa Catalina community. They were part of the mass move from El Limonal in May 2004. Despite being 9 months pregnant, Liscila carried armloads of their meager belongings aboard the flatbed truck that transported the family from the city dump to the surrounding countryside. They hastily settled in their temporary structure. Liscila rested 2 days until little Antonio forced his way into the world; the first child born at Villa Catalina. One year later, the family embraces the positive changes that are overtaking the community. The Rostrans, one of the first 40 families chosen, will spend the next 3 months building their permanent home. They will subsist on rice and beans and give up all gainful employment. It is an exciting time for them and their neighbors. Their older child, Ismael, is happily attending the village school. A community bazaar and agricultural cooperatives have sprung up, creating sources of revenue previously unimagined. They can now start to imagine. They can see a solid, 500 square foot cinderblock structure called "home". It will have a garden with a mango tree. And an outdoor kitchen. There will be a private latrine just a few steps away. A few chickens and a rooster might wander about the yard...Alleluia!



The Family

Liscila works on the steel columns while Juan lays the blocks for their new home.



What's Important

How do you respond to someone who tells you they are starving? That without food, they can't survive or focus on trying to find the work that will provide them the very things they need?

You have to respond by finding a way to produce food. That has been our focus for the last six months. Pigs, chickens, and organic farming...

A healthy female pig can produce 16-20 babies a year, a chicken can produce 4-5 pounds of meat in 8 weeks or an egg every day, organically produced vegetables can provide the nutrients so desperately needed...

At Villa Catalina, we are farming over 25 acres of land and have started cooperatives in all these areas. At a farm in Leon, we are farming 17 more acres to provide for the Casa Jacinta y Francisco Boys Orphanage. Please read the article on the back about the success of a chicken project.

As we continue to build homes and support orphanages, we must provide a long-term solution to a very dire hunger problem. These projects are a great start to not only addressing the immediate problem, but to a future of self-sustainability.

Our dream is to never have to answer the question of where the next meal will come from...

How You Can Help

As Nicaragua goes through another economic crisis that drastically affects the poor of the country, we need your help for them to survive.

- \$75 will buy 150 baby chicks that in 8 weeks will provide 4-5 pounds of meat.
- \$150 will purchase a female pig capable of producing 16-20 babies a year.
- \$25/month provides for sufficient water to irrigate 1.75 acres of organic vegetables.

Please consider supporting this effort.

Success!

When you get knocked down a few times and struggle, success is very sweet. Six years ago, God led us to the very remote village of San Francisco de Asis. 60 families were living in black plastic tents after surviving Hurricane Mitch and watching all their belongings being swept down a raging river. Starting all over was hard enough, but doing it in the mountains where the temperature regularly soars over 100 degrees and the land is incredibly dry made it near impossible. Odemar Godoya, the community leader, asked Amigos for Christ to help the community start a chicken cooperative that would benefit the 60 families of his community with both chicken to sell and to eat. Amigos for Christ would provide the initial capital which included the chicken house, 600 baby chicks, feed and vaccines, a meat storage unit, and coolers to take the chicken to market. The community would provide all the labor, and after the initial sales, would continue on their own by reinvesting their earnings. After producing over 2400 pounds of chicken meat from the initial investment, the project is now thriving on its own. God is good, and He has given the remote village of San Francisco de Asis the success it needed to survive...

After living like this for so long...



This chicken cooperative offers hope.



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