

Pierre Journal for March 2009

Greetings from Vital and Ketly Pierre your IM missionaries to Bluefields, Nicaragua!

We praise God for the continued miracles He has provided for us both here in Bluefields and in Kukra Hill! What an AWESOME God we serve!

We are so excited you tell you what God has been doing here that is difficult to know where to begin. So, we'll start by updating you on the progress of the Multi-Purpose/School construction in Kukra Hill.

Can you believe it? The building has been completed and Colegio Bethel is open and we have students attending classes!

Let me back up and tell you what has happened on this latest segment of the journey God has led us on. As noted in our Christmas letter last December, we were praying for workers and finances to be able to build student chairs, purchase and lay tile, and to complete the bathrooms. Praise God that we were able to get most of the work done! Largely because of the hard work and sacrifices of our Bethel and Kukra Hill church members. We also thank God for the teams that came from the states to help us with the finances and their hard labor.

We mentioned miracles and there were many. This is just one account: When the building was completed and painted we had government officials come in to inspect and certify the school. The results were shocking! We were told that the government was not allowing new private schools to charge any fee to students in Nicaragua. After some communications with pastor Joel in Kukra Hill, the official from the Ministry of Education proposed that the government would pay the teachers and the church will be in charge of the administration of the school. We agreed with that proposition because God's focus is: "Let the children come to me" and that is also our focus. The school is a great setting for children to come to the saving knowledge of Jesus Christ. The officials told Joel that they were going to send permission to open the school. We waited but nothing came. We called but had no results from our efforts.

Vital immediately began calling his local prayer warriors and asked them to pray. Meanwhile pastor Joel and the new mayor of Kukra Hill drafted a letter to the government official in Managua in charge of education in the country. They went to

Managua and requested an audience with the education officials. After pleading their case, the government reversed their original decision and allowed Colegio Bethel to open as planned with the stipulation that they would not charge any fees to the students. They also promised to pay the teachers for the next school year (February-November 2010) and that the church will be in charge of the administration of the school.

In spite of that news, Bethel Church in Bluefields made the decision to open the school by faith with only grades one through three. The government officials were astonished about our decision to open the school with all the stipulations and our obvious disappointment. Yes, we will have the children in school and the Lord will give us an opportunity to train a generation for Him! Praise God! Thank all of you for your prayers! Colegio Bethel opened its doors on February 16th and currently has 43 students enrolled and expects to have 60 soon. In addition to the school, there are 92 students enrolled in the before/after school-tutoring program.

We know that God our provider, the beginner and the finisher of His work, will provide the funds through His children for the completion of the construction, the teacher's salary, and for the administration costs. The completed building stands as a testimony to what God can do when His servants have faith in Him! He can indeed work miracles!

Exciting things are happening at the Bethel church as well. Last year as the church was in the midst of the building project in Kukra Hill, a 6th grade teacher from a public school, Nuestra Senora del Rosario, invited Ketly to give a 30 minute devotion to her class every Monday. Teachers started to see changes in the young people and invited Ketly to do the same in other classrooms. This year, they are giving us the opportunity to give daily devotions to 10 classrooms with 30 to 40 students and a weekly devotion to the teachers. Praise the Lord!

In the later weeks of February the church embarked on a 40 half-day fast and prayer program for the people of Bluefields. This evangelistic effort will include door-to-door personal contact and street meetings starting in the Santa Rosa neighborhood. They have already had one meeting in a public park where they set up sound equipment on a basketball court and had music and an evangelistic service. The community has been receptive and the response has been good. A bus was hired and transported 50 kids to the church compound on Saturday where they joined another 76 children and young people for a day of worship and recreation. Please help us pray for the people in this community, especially the youth. Pray also

for the members of Bethel church that they may be the witnesses the Lord would have them to be.

Another ministry that the Lord is using is the daycare center at the Bluefields compound. There are currently 20 children from babies to toddlers enrolled. This has been a tremendous outreach to the community and the children are already sharing the Good News with their parents through songs and Bible stories. We praise God for the workers in this ministry. They are filling a real need in the community and have a great opportunity to witness to parents!

We have several pictures of the Kukra Hill building and we wanted to include them in the above text but our file size was too big so we are sending them as an attachment. Please view them as a slide show to see what the Lord has done by using His faithful servants!

Added note: You can also view the photos for our March 2009 newsletter by going to our Mission Bluefields website at -- www.missionbluefields.org/ -- and clicking on the "Photos - For March 2009 Newsletter" link on the left side of the homepage. After you see the next webpage, then click on the "View Slideshow" link on the left side to have all photos shown to you automatically in an enlarged format.

As always, we continue to thank you our loyal supporters. Without your vital part of this ministry we would not be able to complete the ministry God has called us to here in Nicaragua. We hope we can visit all of you when we come to the states. Thank you again for your tremendous prayer and financial support!

Prayer Requests:

1. Additional teams to build playground equipment, outside bathrooms (6 fully functional), 20x20 house for teachers, a fence, and a basketball/soccer court at Kukra Hill.
2. Additional funding for the staff at Kukra Hill, which amounts to \$1,000.00 (US) per month. Three teachers, an accountant, and a director.
3. Our transition for the next term of US/PR assignment, which start at the end of June 2009. It will be another big change for Jose Marie with another language and country.