

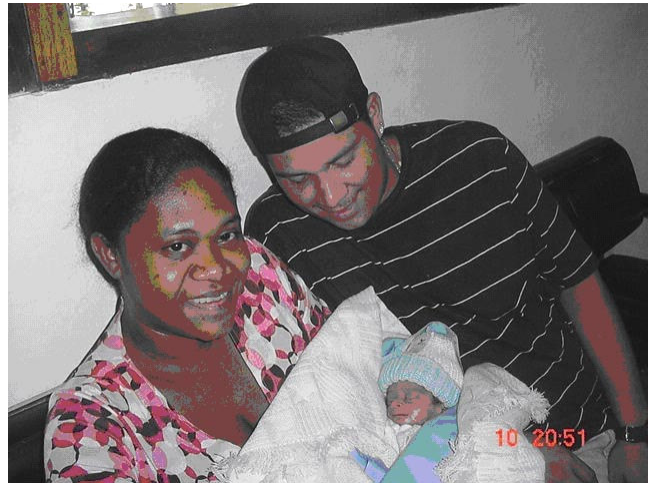
## *From Death to Life*

“I say emphatically that anyone who listens to my message and believes in God who sent me has eternal life, and will never be damned for his sins, but has already passed out of death into life” (John 5:24).

Lizbeth’s life, a member of First Spanish-Speaking Baptist Church – Bethel in Bluefields, Nicaragua, was in jeopardy. She had a severe illness called HELLP Syndrome in May 2006. She lost her newborn baby and was near death. The doctors had given up hope but her mother Emelina and Bethel Church stood up in prayer and fasting waiting for God to stand with us and say no to this death. The Lord brought her back to life. For what reason? To give life to many children in a new ministry that she started on Saturday afternoons with children from 5-10 years old two years ago in the church. She was able to see in the face of these children her first baby that she did not see.

As a mother, the Lord used her as a gardener tending to the hearts of many children who needed the seeds of God’s truth so they could have new life in Christ. While she was watering the garden with grace and using the hoe of discipline, the sunshine of love, and continuing to speak the truth into these little hearts, she became pregnant last year for the second time. The Children’s Ministry started with approximately 5 children and in March and before she went to the hospital to have her baby, she had nearly 50 children attending.

The doctor decided to take the baby before her time because of her previous complications. The baby boy was premature and had some problems with his stomach, but the Lord healed him and gave him life. While Lizbeth was in the hospital with her baby, Emelina found herself in a situation that she needed to respond too. Two girls that have been coming to the Children’s Ministry stayed without their parents. Their father left the house because his wife got involved in another relationship and the mother decided to leave the house also. The girl’s protective shield was gone. While God was taking care of Emelina’s grandson, she decided to give to these two girls the protective shield of God’s love and receive life.



Wow, what an opportunity the Lord is giving us at Bethel Church to be that protection shield for children so we in turn can lead them to Christ, the real protector. The Lord has used us to protect the lives of so many children from danger through the teaching of the Word. That teaching works in their lives so they will not step into danger. God is using these different ministries with children, i.e. After School Program, Children’s Ministry on Saturdays (Bible teaching, sports and music), Safe Harbor (home for children whose parents are working outside of Nicaragua), Day Care, Movie Night on Saturdays and Sunday School so each child can find refuge in God, the place of safety. Like Psalm 91:2-5a says: “For he rescues you from every trap and protects you from the fatal plague. He will shield with his wings. They will shelter you. Now you don’t need to be afraid...”

We pray that parents will continue to trust God in us so they will continue to send their children to Bethel Church as a place of refuge. Our prayer is that they may find that wonderful abundant life in Christ Jesus!

As the Lord continues to give life through His children at Bethel Church in Bluefields and in Kukra Hill, the desire to expand the Good News to another city in Nicaragua cannot be subdued! Three people that Vital has discipled from Bluefields were dedicated as missionaries to go and make disciples in the city of Rama, two hours by speed-boat from Bluefields. Vital and other members from the church have accompanied Alberto, a businessman that has left his business; Argentina, Alberto's wife that has left her comfortable home; and Francisco, a young man that God has taken into His hand to make him a man of God for His glory. How exciting it is to give birth to a new church! It is taking people from darkness and death into the real life that is only in Jesus Christ.

Thank you so much for allowing us through your prayers and financial support to continue to give life to so many people that are living as dead. Thank you for your participation in this ministry to give new life in Jesus.

We love you in Christ,

Vital and Ketly