FRIENDS OF ESQUIPULAS

PARROQUIA DE ESQUIPULAS, NICARAGUA

FALL 2012

Newsletter

Volume I
Issue II

Reflections, Ponderings and Musings

In August, a delegation—Dawn Dones, Jim Flynn, Nancy Fox, Susan Nash and Maria Price—visited Nicaragua

From: dawndones@hotmail.com

Subject: Hola Date: Thu, 9 Aug 2012 13:00
Dear Family and Friends,
I hope this message finds you all so well and surrounded by those who bring you love, love, love.
We stayed last night in a hotel right across the street from the airport and will head into Esquipulas this morning. It is beautiful here. Please continue to hold us in the heart of your heart and know that a couple thousand miles away I am doing just that for you.
Peace and love, Dawn

Subject: Muy Bonita Date: Mon, 13 Aug 2012 14:28
Dear Family and Friends,
Being in Esquipulas has been AMAZING, there are no adequate words to describe what is unfolding around me and within me! The kindness and hospitality are overwhelming. God's Spirit is palpable. My heart is so full and you all are so near us as we make our way through this land of beautiful...
Love, Dawn

Subject: ¿Como esta? Date: Wed, 15 Aug 2012 16:54
Dear Friends and Family,
Hello from Matagalpa! Everything and everyone is so wonderful here. I just wanted to check in to say we made it safely to Casa Matera. The women and staff loved the robes sewed by Joan and friends and all of the supplies/clothing that were collected at St. William...thanks to everyone for their generosity and support!

Miraculously, we are finding a new capacity for our hearts to hold love. It is such a privilege to be here with this delegation. I cannot wait to tell you all about it. Trust my thoughts go to you. Always, Dawn

Subject: Love, love, love
Date: Sun, 19 Aug 2012 06:46
Dear Friends,
It is the rainy season, and the rain is coming down as the sun is setting in Matagalpa. I am at Kitty Madden's home being so well cared for, listening to the music of the summer shower and enjoying fresh squeezed lemonade. Kitty has lemon and star fruit trees in her backyard that make for delicious fruit juice! The hospitality that continues to flow toward me is beyond words. I am so very grateful and have found myself completely at home in this far away land.

I colored this afternoon with the women as Casa Materna and got to practice very, very basic Spanish by identifying animals, asking people their names, reviewing colors and laughing. Luckily, laughter is a universal language and I am pretty competent in this one!
Love, love, love, Dawn

Subject: Home Date: Mon, 27 Aug 2012 13:27
Dear Friends,
Although I have missed being home, I have found in this opening of time and space an unlikely place and a circle of people who feel like home several countries away. I have met people who have been as tender toward me as my mom, as protective of me as my dad, as reassuring of me as my aunt and cousin, loving towards me like my sister, encouraging of me like my brother and sister-in-law, as enamored by me as my youngest friends and little nephew Miles, as patient with me as every teacher I have, and so very compassionate toward me like my dearest friends and community. I have fallen in love and been so well loved that it is difficult for me to know the just right words to express the power of this connection, this feeling, this familiar knowing, this awareness of God as close and clear. With gratitude and deep love, Dawn

Fr. Jim Flynn elevates image of Our Lord of Esquipulas Feast Day 2012

Celebrating Christo Negro: A Fiesta for Nicaragua

Saturday, January 12, 2013, 7-10pm at St. William

Plan now to join the fun…Music provided by Scott Thomas and friends

The Organic Project

By Don Pitts, dcp3@insightbb.com

Friends of Esquipulas includes several projects. This brief article highlights the Organic Project in which 30 farmers grow organic produce. This produce provides supports for their own families and neighbors as well as being for sale in local markets. In the past these farmers may have only grown corn and beans but through this program have access to seed and technical support for vegetable crops. Organic pesticides and fertilizers are being utilized to keep costs down and to produce a healthy product. The project is beginning to create some opportunities for men to make enough income to stay with their families. In the past they often had to go to places like Costa Rica to work and send money home.

There are many challenges and opportunities in this work. The biggest challenge is the infrastructure. Farmers need roads and transportation to get the crops to market and a reliable, stable market to sell what they have grown. They particularly struggle with the lack of a truck or some other reliable means of getting the vegetables to nearby towns. They also envision a more permanent market in town so the produce can be sold on a regular basis. The coming year we have committed to $13, 650 in support of this project. Additional support from other organizations is being sought to expand this project. The outlook is optimistic that these challenges can be overcome.

Beans and Rice Solidarity Suppers

By Joey Porter,jmport@bellsouth.net

Early this fall, members of the **Friends of Esquipulas (FE)** agreed to host more than a half dozen simple dinners in their homes, inviting friends and family to hear about the non-profit's mission and the need for a more stable flow of funds.With very little arm-twisting, the first three dinners raised nearly $5,000. (Four other dinners were scheduled after the newsletter deadline, but the goal for each gathering was $1,000.)

In solidarity with the Nicaraguan people, the simple fare of rice and beans provided the hosts with a platform to give their guests a deeper understanding of the kinds of programs that **FE** supports. Members of the volunteer board that oversees FE developed the idea of the dinners to help ensure we can meet our commitment to the projects (more than $50,000 per year), to build community, and to help raise awareness of the need in the broader Louisville community and beyond. These dinners are really rather easy to orchestrate. Hosts are provided with invitations, support materials for the evening (including a 10-minute DVD that makes the case for donating), even recipes for the simple fare.

If you would like more information on being a host, please contact Jean Porter, David Horvath or Dotti Lockhart.

FE Newsletter will be published twice a year. If you would rather receive it electronically, please email us at: Friendsofesquipulas @gmail.com

How to donate!!

Simply make your check payable to *Friends of Esquipulas* and place it in the collection basket or mail to:

FE c/o St. William, 1226 W. Oak Street, Louisville, KY, 40210

Thanks for your support!

Friends of Esquipulas:

1226 W. Oak Street
Louisville, KY 40210

An Outreach Ministry of St. William Community