

Center for Development in Central America



March 1996

We would like to introduce you to our new logo for the Center for Development in Central America. This is one step in creating an atmosphere for the CDCA to eventually become its own corporation in the future. Currently the CDCA is a ministry of the JHC, Inc., but we intend the CDCA to be well established as an organization of its own by the time we as the community need to leave Nicaragua in future years.

We have designed a mug using the people in our logo. Anyone who makes a donation of \$50.00 or more (and wants one) can receive one. This mug is hand-thrown and painted and supports not only our work but a pottery cooperative here that is operated by people disabled by the war. The paint and glaze are lead-free and safe.



The feeding center in Roberto Clemente is open!!!!!!

They are feeding and offering preschool to 91 three-to-six year olds. 22 pregnant women, 16 lactating mothers, as well as 71 children under three are being fed daily. Also, Roberto Clemente has targeted 22 older children, who are developmentally delayed due to malnutrition, and is feeding them until they are within developmental norms.

The building is wonderful. It has tables and chairs and it has space. Although with 184 children it does get a little cramped. Pat has held a workshop on hydroponic gardening to teach the women

Opening day of Roberto Clemente preschool

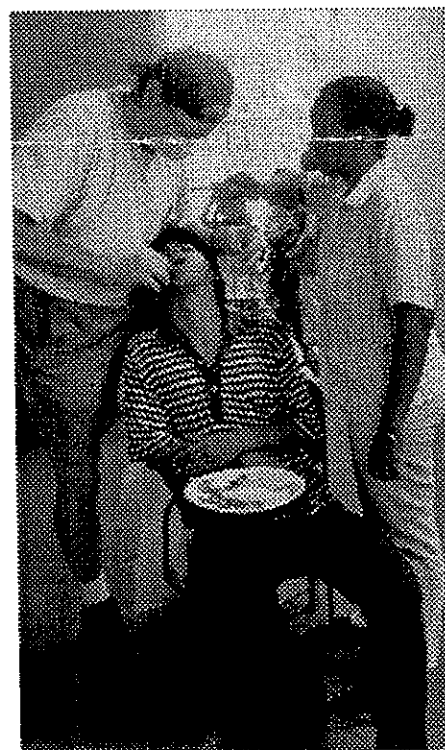
how to grow supplemental food for the center. Several workshops on vegetarianism have been held to increase the children's nutrition cheaply. The center has also been used for health clinics and dental clinics to benefit the whole community. We are excited to see yet another project come to fruition!

A new Christmas tradition for the JHC....

Last Christmas we were thrilled to be able to get potable water into the community of Roberto Clemente. This Christmas the community of Cuatro de Abril received potable water. We figure this is a new tradition for us and we think it is a good one.

To be able to give people the gift of clean water, the gift of life,

is a more meaningful act for us than any of the other Christmas traditions we have developed along the way. Considering all the Christmas traditions that have been formed, don't you think this is a pretty good one, too?



Dental clinic held in feeding center



Aaron and Jessica shape stove chimney in place

Six volunteers spent Christmastide working here with us. Three held six half-day health clinics and treated over 250 patients. Three worked on putting the finishing touches on the feeding center. One worked with Jessica on fine-tuning an appropriate technology manual for an energy-conserving cook stove by building a trial stove. Two worked with Mike on sustainable agriculture techniques and other appropriate technology (i.e. the sesame crop, animal transportation, making a wooden saddle, etc.).

Aaron Clauset, Nora Laws, Alex Francisco, Kate Lavelle, John Hartman, Kay Ritchie, and Pam Agner not only gave of their time and money to come here, but also gave of their skills and their love to others here and to us (and they missed the blizzard of '96 at home!). We are grateful to them.

The sesame crop is sold *and* we made a profit!!!!!!

This is remarkable

considering several factors:

1) it was our first crop (an organic farmer said we should consider ourselves very fortunate *if we broke even* let alone made a profit);

2) the sesame crop across all of Nicaragua was ruined by rains and volcanic eruptions; and

3) we didn't know what we were doing...we were learning.

Our crop was not as large as we had hoped, but it was all cut, dried, and threshed, and we were told it was the best in Nicaragua. We had rain in January



Beating cut sesame to shake out seeds.

(unheard of here), and yet most rain bypassed our field so it was not ruined like those few crops that had survived the torrential rains during the rainy season.



Sesame foreman and Mike filling the very first bag of sesame!

We had to finish the harvesting in one day because we were informed that we had one final day to get it to the processors. On the way, the bus had two flat tires and Mike was stopped twice for driving the bus without a valid bus license (the hired driver was drunk). After the seed got to the processor, we discovered they would not process it until March or later.

We then had to sell to an organization here, because they would not fill their contract with us to sell us seeds to complete our U.S. order. The reason was that they were short on their own order and sesame had climbed in price because of the shortage of sesame. - So when all was said and done we at least made a small profit and learned a whole lot, a hundred or so folks had part-time employment, the cooperative that we live on made some money, and the environment was not harmed. And that's the short version!



Separating the sesame seeds from the chaff

some money, and the environment was not harmed. And that's the short version!



JUBILEE HOUSE COMMUNITY
*You shall not oppress one another...
 ...for I am the Lord your God. Lev. 25:17*

Community News: Joseph Philip was born 30 January 1996. He obviously was anxious to come meet the world! He was born two weeks early and couldn't even wait on the doctor to get here! He was baptized by his grandfather, Bob Murdock, on 11 February in a bilingual service.

Daniel and Coury are excited to have a little brother. They love to hold him and "pet" him as often as they can. They, along with all of us, enjoyed having their grandparents, Bob and

Peggy Murdock, here for two weeks.

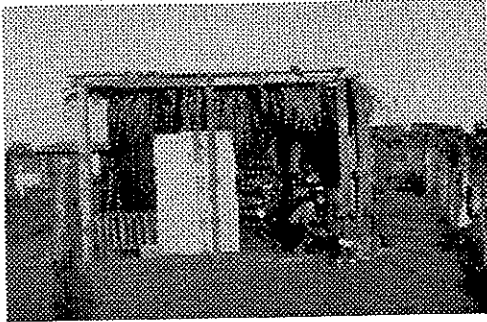
We enjoyed a visit from Tiff over the holidays and were sad when he went back to school. Jessica finished her theater school and is looking forward to auditioning in the States for further dramatic training. When she's not practicing her monologues, she's practicing her music by singing to Joseph.

Kathy has been doing lots of translating with our volunteers and for other groups. She spent five days with a medical team in Leon. Pat has been doing some translating and lots of child care within the community while Mama waddled around before birth and healed after birth. Sarah has been working hard to finish up appropriate tech projects and manuals and getting ready for her tour (see next page). Mike was thrilled to see the completion of two main projects: the sesame and Joseph. And Kathleen is grateful to be through the birth and have a precious, though *hungry*, son in her arms.



The Jubilee House Community in Nicaragua (top to bottom): Mike, Sarah, Jessica, Kathleen, Kathy, Pat, Daniel, Joseph, Coury

Our micro-enterprise endeavors include projects other than the organic sesame crop. We



have recently made three loans:

1. to a local mechanic to buy, fix, and sell motorcycles;
2. to a newly formed cooperative to build a shrimp farm (they are digging *by hand* the equivalent of three acres of land to make growing ponds!);
3. to a couple to buy material to sew school uniforms for the new school year.

Two of the loans are just over \$100.00. The shrimp farm loan is for \$3,000.00. All of these people are hard-working and just need a little capital to try to start a business (which in a country with 65% unemployment is necessary). The banks will not loan them money because they are not big business. One of these loans has already been repaid.

If you would like to invest in this project, please contact us. With more investments we can make more loans. What people critically need in this country is a way to make a living. This may be our most important project.

We are coming to the States to do another speaking tour, mostly in the east. Our last two tours were so successful in helping the CDCA build a grassroots base that we are continuing them in 1996.

Sarah and Jessica will be in the US from 8 April until early June. They have a tentative schedule. If you want to hear them or have a group that might sponsor a speaking engagement, please call Jim Brown at 1-800-ASHEVIL (outside of the Asheville area). He will put Sarah in contact with you.

People ask us, "What do you need?"

We need you and here is how:

- investors (in the micro-enterprise fund);
- pledgers (monthly, bi-monthly, quarterly, or annually);
- those who pray;
- Friends of CDCA;
- contacts for the tour;
- and those who send words of support.

Friends of

Center for
Development in
Central
America



Want to be a part of a new organization designed to support the work of the Center for Development in Central America?

Friends of CDCA is being formed to give volunteer, financial, and stateside support for the work being accomplished by the CDCA. The work here in Nicaragua cannot be accomplished without support in the U.S. --- your support.

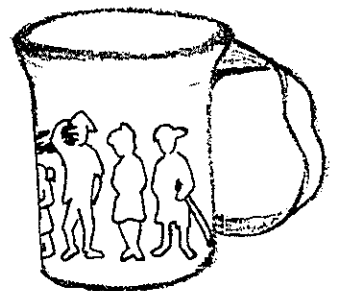
If you would like to become a member of the Friends of CDCA, then all you have to do is make a contribution of at least \$25* and mark the reply form appropriately. You will receive an annual report of the CDCA's work and notices of upcoming events.

We invite you to become a part of this work and of this new organization.

*a contribution of \$50 or more will allow you to receive a hand-thrown pottery mug especially designed for the CDCA.

YES! I want to support the work of the CDCA in the following ways:

- Enclosed is my tax-deductible contribution of \$ _____.
- Yes, I want to receive a CDCA mug (available for a contribution of \$50 or more).
- Yes! I want to be a new member of Friends of CDCA.
- I am pledging \$ _____ (monthly/quarterly/annually) for 1996.
- Please contact me concerning investment opportunities through the micro-enterprise fund.



Please make checks payable to JHC, Inc./CDCA and mail in the enclosed envelope. Please also note any name or mailing address corrections below and your email address if you have one. We want to stay in touch!

We are grateful for all that so many of you have done for the Center. We especially want to say thank you to:

those who have responded with tools and other items when we have had robberies;
those who pledge to us;
those who remembered us at Christmas with cards, good wishes, gifts (we were able to end the year in the black), and love;

those who have volunteered their time in many, many different ways;

and for those who keep us and CDCA in their prayers.

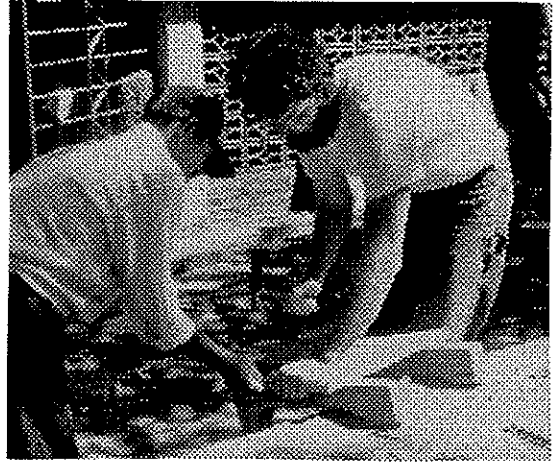
We are also grateful that:

Joseph is born and that he and Kathleen are healthy;

we had visits from family and friends down here;

the sesame crop was successful;

and the work still progresses and all the staff is healthy.



Don Gregorio and John build wooden saddle

Reflection.....

So often in the Protestant Church, we go straight from Palm Sunday, the triumphal entry into Jerusalem, to Easter and we bypass Good Friday. We avoid the cross except to hang pretty ones around our necks or decorate our church walls with ones that are more works of art than symbols of execution. It's our way of avoiding pain. But those of us who believe in the resurrection have no business avoiding pain, because the resurrection ONLY came about through pain, suffering, and death.

Here in Nicaragua pain cannot be avoided: it is overwhelming. Here they do not move from Palm Sunday to Easter, but they seem stuck in Good Friday and the crucifixion.

For years, under Somoza, people were executed not by a cross but by unbelievable means of torture. After the revolution people then had to endure a war that killed so many, many mothers' children. Mothers, like Mary, watched their children slaughtered.

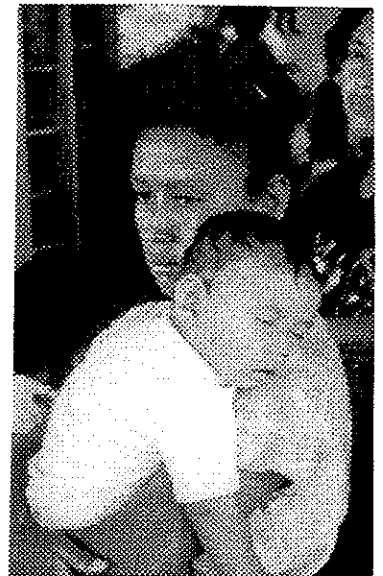
Now the Nicaraguans have been whipped 30 lashes with the whip of a crushing "free-market" economy imposed on them from outside. They have been crowned with the crown of diseases. They have to carry the heavy burden of hunger. They have only rags. They are beaten down. Mothers watch their children die on the crosses of poverty. Do they cry out about being forsaken? I don't know. I only know there seems to be no resurrection in sight.

There are so many who only know pain and suffering and death. Who only survive one day at a time. Who have no hope. Who see no resurrection. But there are others who, despite the pain and suffering and death, hold on like a mad dog to hope. Who work like crazy, believing that resurrection can be the end. Who believe



Formerly malnourished baby, now growing

and believe and believe though they and everyone they know are hanging on a cross. César, our co-worker and teacher, is one of those people. He works day and night, seven days a week, to bring an end to the death of poverty. He holds onto hope like a mad dog, so maybe there is resurrection for these people *somewhere* in sight. Maybe they *will* be able to move from Good Friday to Easter.



César Fajardo

Air Mail to Nicaragua: JHC c/o FUNDECI - Casa Ben Linder, Barrio Mons. Lezcano, de la estatua 3 c. al sur, 1 1/2 arriba, Managua, Nicaragua

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