

**The members of Genesis have gotten their second wind!** After a year of depressing news and dashed expectations their spirit is again triumphing with a little help from friends.

The cooperative returned recently from a trip to San Salvador to observe a spinning plant in operation. This trip was a real shot of optimism in their arm! For many it was the first time out of the country or even north very far into Nicaragua. They took some of their per diem money and had two polo shirts made for each of them with their logo. For many Nicaraguans a uniform implies belonging and being official. They proudly wore their shirts as they toured a spinning plant in operation.



They were overwhelmed by the enormity of the plant, but



were told that 30 years ago this plant was no bigger than their building...then their eyes got bright. They met a 98-year-old receptionist who had started with the plant 30 years ago. The members of Genesis took turns having their photos taken with her. The trip was extremely important to them to keep their hope alive.

Now what do they do while they wait on the lawsuit against Coker International? Well, they make paving stones with our delegations. They worked with a high school class from Lopez Island (WA) and with a brigade from Bucknell University (PA) to level land and to make the stones so that they can eventually pave the road to their building for tractor trailer trucks.

They continue to receive basic grains so they can feed their families until they can go into

production. With Sarah's speaking tour in the Southeast of the USA, she has received gifts to keep this going through May.

Most importantly, they are researching ways to make money. They make and sell jewelry, crochet plastic into handbags, and other small efforts, but they need something more sustainable which they are trying to figure out with us.



**The organic agriculture cooperative, COPROEXNIC, has certainly been busy.** The

cotton gin has finished operations for the season and is being improved for processing cotton for next season. We sold all the cotton – five containers...that is a LOT of cotton, folks!

Once Again Nut Butter sent another small delegation from their cooperative to meet with the growers...sesame and peanuts. When all the sesame is shipped we will have shipped **twelve** containers of sesame...and **that** is a LOT of those tiny little seeds!

We had representatives from Their Bucks coffee to come and visit with coffee growers to source more coffee from other small growers like El Porvenir. El Porvenir shipped 26,000 pounds of coffee, but this year they lost money on their crops. When buyers and growers agree to prices up front, then the growers have a guaranteed price and most of the time our growers benefit, but this year the price of coffee shot up. El Porvenir could have made more money selling their organic selling to a middle man, but they upheld their end of the bargain and sold in trust that next year will be different and in appreciation of many previous years when these buyers gave them top price on their coffee.

**The health clinic is broadening its services.** We have an elderly care program that is going very well with home visits and clinic visits. Our chronic care program has grown and now includes people with Parkinson's and thyroid problems. Treatments for our asthma patients now include locally purchased cortisone inhalers (in the past we only gave out inhalers that were brought as donations). And our community outreach is growing exponentially.



*Nebulizer training for asthma patients*

We have volunteer health promoters who accepted nebulizers from the clinic and now open their homes to people with asthma and give nebulization treatments. We have other volunteer health promoters who took first aid kits from the clinic to be outposts for wound care, dehydration, and fevers. They help people living in their area from their homes. We are grateful to these generous people.

Our dentist is going into schools to teach dental hygiene to children. She is handing out toothbrushes and toothpaste. The children love her and we are hoping that she can instill in them the importance of preventive care.



*Dental hygiene visit*



Boston College nurses in pharmacy

We were fortunate to have nurses from Boston College Nursing School to **volunteers** with us for one week. They taught classes, worked in the pharmacy, did home visits to the elderly, and the nurse practitioners saw patients. They have received a grant for two years now to help the work of the clinic and are hoping for yet a third year.

Gifts like these grants and all the fund raising efforts of the brigades from Bucknell are the financial backbone of the clinic...and speaking of fund raising...

***We have raised our Nicaraguan staff's salaries on a giant leap of faith.***

Our salaries were way above minimum wage but below what a family of four needs to

cover basic necessities. So without security of the promise of funding (which is hard to obtain for salaries), we took a deep breath and raised them anyway. We are hoping that people who do *not* currently give will commit to donating **just \$10/month** to help. A recurring gift can be set up automatically on line through <http://tinyurl.com/5rwxax> and then you don't have to even remember!



Lopez Island volunteers painting clinic waiting room benches



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

**The Community:** Sarah is still in the States speaking. We are grateful to all you have hosted and/or housed her and for you who attended her talks.

Pat and Kathy each went to visit their mother separately and had good visits. Paul went to the States to attend a furniture show and saw many friends.

We are grateful to have the help of all our children: Eibhlín (age 5) and Orla (age 3) like to help Becca put on stamps on envelopes when we do mailings. Joseph babysits the girls when we have meetings. Daniel, our main driver now-a-days, and Coury translate for groups and work in our pharmacy. Coury as a second year medical student sees the elderly patients in their homes and helps at the clinic in many ways.

**Reflection:**

I want to take a moment and tell you a bit about three of our staff members:

Rogelio finished elementary school. He can do just about anything when it comes to construction and do it well, *really* well. He has worked with us for 15 years. When he knows someone who needs some money he hires them to help him and pays them out of his own wage. He is the last of 5 brothers, all 4 died within 3 years...3 from violent deaths. He will come in to do anything anytime...all we have to do is call.



So will César, who has been part of this work for 19 years. He found us our center building and helped us get established. He is our lifeline with Nicaraguan customs, laws, and community. César fought in the revolution and was a human rights activist. With no formal degree, community organizers across the world could learn great things from him.



Josefa, on the other hand, has a degree in both pharmaceuticals and engineering and she works as director of our cleaning staff, cooking staff, and hostess. She makes more directing, cleaning, and cooking for our delegations than she can make in her studied fields. She is a good director and organizer – so good that she runs two different pharmacies in the evenings...she's rarely home with her son. She is a heaven-sent help to us.



The Jubilee House Community has not raised the salary of any member of the intentional community (i.e. us *gringos*) in 31 years...just our choice. BUT it is NOT our choice to **not** raise the salaries of our Nicaraguan staff members. It is so hard to make funders understand that even though he did not go to university or even high school, Rogelio is the most qualified person we could ever hope to get OR even though César does not have an undergraduate degree – let alone a master's degree – who could find a better community organizer? And who is going to fund housekeeping?

We would be hard pressed to get better employees than the great people who work in the Center and give so much of themselves for the poor. Hard pressed, indeed.

-Kathleen

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**Yes! I want to help support the work of the Center for Development in Central America.**



Online tax-deductible contributions are for the general operating budget (designations also accepted), and may be single donations or recurring (i.e. a monthly gift of \$10 to help cover Nicaraguan staff salary increases.)

To change your email address or sign-up for an e-newsletter: [enewsletter@jhc-cdca.org](mailto:enewsletter@jhc-cdca.org) or [Sarah@jhc-cdca.org](mailto:Sarah@jhc-cdca.org). Please notify us of your paper address changes as well.

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