



circa 1997

# 20 years serving & beyond

## NICARAGUA

### Children of Destiny

*"Speak up for those who cannot speak for themselves, For the rights of all who are destitute. Speak up and judge fairly, defend the rights of the poor and needy."*  
Ps. 31:8



2017

## Hola!

I'm Linda, Sandy's Administrative Assistant and I am filling in for Sandy this month. It's been one year and one month since Sandy's initial surgery on her elbow. Unfortunately, due to complications, she has recently had to go through a second surgery! We are praying for a full, complete and quick recovery. As you can see, she is in a much larger cast this time but manages to look great anyway!

While I am here, I want to talk a little about our child sponsorship at Children of Destiny. We have children who are not fully sponsored and several new children this year who are not yet sponsored. These precious children come to us from dire circumstances, often arriving scared, hungry and dirty. We provide them with a home that gives them love, compassion, care and all the necessities they need. They are also taught about the peace and perfect love of our Christ Jesus. We are only able to open our home to them because of God and the hearts of our sponsors. With their help and generosity, when an abandoned or abused child is sponsored, it shows them that someone actually cares about them, even loves them. It opens up a wonderful new world to both the child and the sponsor. We consider our sponsors as gifts from God! So if you have never thought of becoming a sponsor, won't you take a moment to consider it now? It can be a pure act of joy for both you and a child. I can testify to that because I have been a sponsor for 6 years now and it's been a true blessing!

If you have any questions or would like to sponsor one of our children, please visit our website to learn more and sign up - CODN.org, or you can email me at CODN@globeintl.org.

Hope to hear from you!



Sandy and several missionaries who make up the US Support Team recently returned from a trip to our children's home in Jinotega. They were delighted to also have one of our child sponsors, Chris and his daughter Elizabeth join them on the trip. This family has been sponsoring one of our boys since March of 2013. The trip was a total success for both the children and the sponsors. Below is a letter we received from Elizabeth.



FATHER & DAUGHTER SHARE SKILLS, COMPASSION, & THEIR LOVE OF GOD WITH OUR CHILDREN

My dad and I recently had the privilege of traveling to Nicaragua for a week with CODN. While there, I was most encouraged by my time spent with the kids.

I got to know many of the children by interacting with them through games and crafts. We personalized pillowcases, and it was a treat to see the kids drawing things that were special to them and writing out scriptures or their favorite soccer teams. Because I am in college studying nutrition, I also had an opportunity to co-lead a cooking class for a few older girls, and they had a fun time learning practical skills. Most valuably, I had the gift of meeting the boy my family has sponsored for over six years. As we spent sweet time together, my dad and I were able to learn more about him and encourage him in the Lord.

This trip has been a blessing. It has broadened my perspective by allowing me to interact personally with the children in the home. I am thankful for how CODN is sharing and living out the Gospel with each child who walks through its doors, bringing joy and hope to kids coming from difficult situations. Because of this organization and God's great

grace, many who did not know Jesus have come to accept Him as their Savior. I am thankful to have been, and continue to be, a part of that!

In Christ, Elizabeth

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We had a great week with Chris and Elizabeth and our USA support team!

Some photos from Chris & Elizabeth's trip!



FROM LEFT TO RIGHT : CHRIS & ELIZABETH, MARK & TRACIE WITH CHILDREN CARIS & WESTON, SANDY & JIM, NICK & ELAINA, ASHLEY & ANDREAS



### A NOTE FROM CHRIS

Sandy,

Elizabeth and I would like to thank you SO VERY MUCH for allowing us to join you on the trip to Nicaragua. It was an awesome experience to enjoy the kids and see what God is doing among them. There is a book by Eugene Peterson (which I have not yet read) titled, "A Long Obedience in the Same Direction." I love the title, and it reminds me of CODN! I am really in awe of the perseverance of you and your staff and many churches over years and years to love these and so many other kids. It is a beautiful ministry for a glorious purpose.

As we think about the kids and the team, God is continuing to "chase us." We'll see what becomes of it. My first goal is to be an encouragement to Ashley and Andres (and Jonathan, if he chooses to come back). Please keep us in the loop as appropriate.

Every time I walk through the door of our home, I smell coffee! And with the smells come thoughts of kids that were not smiling but are now smiling, kids that were not loved but are now loved, kids that were not Christians but now love God deeply, kids that couldn't see past today but now have a hope and a future. Let's keep running the race!

Very grateful,  
Chris & Elizabeth

Always something going on around the home!



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