

January - February 2020

# Latin America

Johnny & Ivonne Cruz



**Dear friend:**

There's good news from this side, bunches. Here's a bit of it.

## **The dream team**

San Pedro was the world's most violent city five years ago. It's calmed down, now it's 22nd. We had our Latin American executive team meet there in a "quieter" part of town to prepare the work we have for this year. We started working on a plan for the decade. We have added Hugo, our South American coordinator, who is doing an extraordinary job. We will be flying him in twice a year from now on.



We mention this team often because of the blessing to be able to work with such amazing leaders. But the main reason is that we really need your prayers for us!

## **Back in the land of the volcanoes**

To drive from Honduras to Nicaragua is an adventure, you never know what you might encounter. The countryside is beautiful, and things have calmed down enough in both countries to make the trip possible. Last year I traveled there to interview a candidate for National Director, Roberto Espinoza. This guy has exceptional credentials, and we were looking forward to the top-rate job that he would do. Well, finally he said no. But he did offer to help with the work in the country.



Meme, who is part of our Latin American team, and I drove down to Nicaragua right after the meeting in San Pedro. We spent a week there in a whirlwind of activity, meetings, and training which were extraordinarily productive. But we needed God's wisdom for a National Director.



On the last night, we were in Nicaragua, we had a surprise waiting for us! It was after the graduation of 10 students in Matagalpa, a two-hour drive from the country's capital. We stayed at a hole-in-the-wall hotel that cost twenty bucks, and as we sat outside our stark rooms, with a fresh breeze blowing,

drinking exotic fruit smoothies, Roberto said he would accept the job! So we have a National Director now! I need to get back to train him. That's him, the guy in the red shirt, with his wife at his side. The gal in white is a second-level graduate who is helping us with the national office.

By the way, I discovered that Meme is one of the most effective snorers that I have ever met. I can make the best advertisement ever made—bar none—for silicon ear-plugs after a week of sharing hotel rooms with him!

## **Up to my ears**

We'd appreciate your prayers. Johnny has more work than he has time to do it. But there is good news coming soon in this regard. Thanks for making all of this possible!

In Jesus' love

*Johnny & Ivonne*