



JACOB & LAURA BACON

NOVEMBER 2020

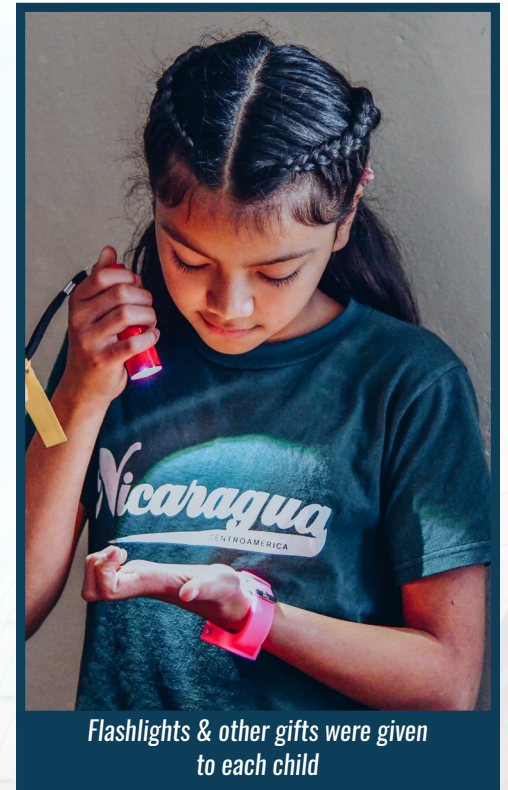


NICARAGUA

DEAR FRIENDS & FAMILY,

Have you ever felt God was preparing you, but you didn't know for what? That's just how my father felt. For an entire year, God began to give my dad teaching lessons, about God's character, His love, how God's children should respond to trials in this life... and SO much more! God 'downloaded' the material first, and then unfolded His plan for my dad to go to Nicaragua and teach the children in the orphanage in Jinotega with us.

At the small muggy airport in Managua, we were motioned over to the Nicaraguan customs officials due to our 'interesting' luggage. Our suitcases were bursting with children's games, teaching demonstrations, books, and CPR mannequins all destined for the children's home. As we opened the suitcases for the customs officials, one of the ladies who appeared to have had a long day and wore a stern look dug through the suitcases lifting out children's toys and gifts with notes attached for the children. She began to smile, then to laugh as she read the notes and saw all of the supplies. She then called to another customs official –she pointed out the handmade chocolate Bibles printed with verses and the small flashlights tagged with a reminder to 'shine bright'... she commented on our plan to take them to an orphanage in the mountains of Nicaragua. They both smiled, then helped us cram the suitcases back closed, every game and candy inside -this time they were beaming and wishing us a great trip and to have fun with the Children!



Flashlights & other gifts were given to each child

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David Foote teaching the children God's character



David with some of the girls



Jacob teaching a game

When we finally pulled up to the children's home, the mountain air was cool and the laughter from the children's home unmistakable! We unloaded the heavy suitcases and immediately began preparing for teachings, medical evaluations, CPR class, games, and a treasure hunt.

During the week, with the aid of props, demonstrations, drawings, and of course some chocolate, the children learned God's character. They were taught about the heart of God, and how we are to respond in trials. They eagerly soaked up the lessons like sponges! At the end of the week, one of the children revealed to my father that he had always feared the dark, always feared what he couldn't see, and thanked my father for his new flashlight, so 'now he didn't have to be afraid anymore'!



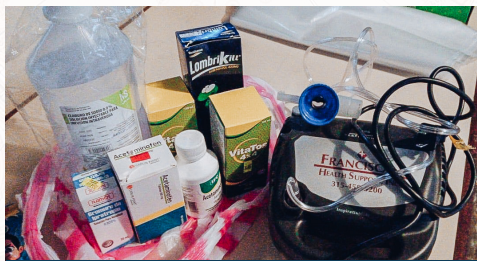
Iris no longer has a heart murmur!

After dinner one night, one of the older girls sat down with Jacob and me and through tears told us of dreams God had given her over the years. She told us how she had become distracted by the world and felt God used my dad's teaching to call her back to Himself. Another of the older girls shared songs that God had inspired her to write, and sang one as though an angel were proclaiming God's glory!

What we didn't know was that shortly after our trip, the Coronavirus pandemic would hit the world stage, closing

borders and making flights into Nicaragua impossible. Then, tragically, on a Monday afternoon just a few short weeks ago, the government came to the home in several trucks and told the center they were 'taking the children to dinner' and to 'pack whatever you can into a backpack'. Some of the children were crying as they were loaded into the trucks. The government officials then dropped off the children with extended relatives, people most of the children didn't even know, without properly informing the relatives ahead of time. That night a document was delivered to the orphanage stating the Nicaraguan government was closing this center –without warning. Ninety percent of the families were already in extreme poverty and struggling and now have added responsibilities. The ministry is working to meet their immediate needs as most of the children don't even have a place to sleep or, in some cases, don't even have an outdoor latrine. Please pray for these children and their families, this has been a traumatizing experience for each of them. Pray that the seeds that have been planted will continue to grow and that they will 'shine bright' and respond well in trials.

- JACOB & LAURA BACON



Medications for Yosimary who is sick



Yosimary with grandmother & cousins