



SANDY BRITNELL | CHILDREN OF DESTINY



Lots of News!

I was totally overwhelmed by the promotion ceremony in Jinotega on July 9th. The first group of children have officially completed level one in our program. The excited children began arriving at 1:30pm for the 3pm ceremony. They were clean, dressed up, polite, and respectful. The best student of each class gave a speech before the certificates were distributed. Each one spoke of the many ways the center has helped them to have hope for their future. The parents spoke to me afterward and expressed their deep gratitude for the love and care we are giving their children daily. They said the children really enjoy the daily devotionals and the meals we serve them.

There were about 250 children and adults at the event. Many family members and extended family members enjoyed the ceremony and the delicious meal afterwards. Our cook and assistants did an excellent job preparing the feast. And all of the desserts were prepared and served by our baking class students! The graduates were celebrated!!



Best student in the computer class



Diplomas

The next day several of us went into the community where many of the children live. The Snyder family of five, from Pensacola, joined Jim and me on this trip. The Snyders raised funds over the past few months to build much needed bunk beds. We wanted to assess which families needed beds. Our social worker had done home studies of the fifteen most needy families so Traycie, Karys, and I set off to check out the possible bed locations. Most homes warmly greeted us and graciously invited us in. Although I have been working in the Jinotega area for 23 years, I was staggered to learn the extent of extreme poverty we witnessed that day. We saw where the children slept - on the dirt floor on a piece of cardboard.



First beds completed



Beds go up the mountain



They love their new beds!



Snyder family



Food was prepared inside on a small smokey fire with animals wandering in and out. No running water and most did not have electricity. We left the area promising to return the next day with beds.

The following day, Jim, Mark Evans, and Weston joined us to deliver five bunk beds, mattresses, pillows, and sheets to several extremely grateful children.

I would have loved for all of you to be there beside us on that trip. We are so grateful to be able to impact this community.

God continues to change lives and bring hope and joy to so many children and their families. While I would not have chosen this path, I see clearly that God, in His sovereignty, made it possible. Thanks to you for your prayers and amazing outpouring of love and support!!

With a grateful heart,

- *Sandy*

Isaiah 54:2

"Enlarge the place of your tent, stretch your tent curtains wide, do not hold back; lengthen your cords, strengthen your stakes."

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