



SMILES AND A THUMBS UP!

Be glad in the Lord, and rejoice, O righteous,
and shout for joy, all you upright in heart.

—*Psalm 32:11*

The front end of the truck needed repairs while we were in Nicaragua, so we made the slow drive over bumpy gravel roads and potholes to Puerto Cabezas - which is 3 hours from the AWA mission base.

Along the way there were two military checkpoints. We always gave a smile and shared the “thumbs up sign” to the guards who then dropped the rope across the road letting us through.

There are also 3-4 stops along the way where a few adults and kids have pulled a rope across the road; they personally repair the roads and want a toll for their efforts. The cost of letting the rope down and to pass is a few cordobas for the

adults and for the kids we gave them cookies. Watching the children’s faces light up when they get a pack of cookies each and a thumbs up for their hard work made us smile and laugh. We could just say “Tu wala” in Miskito, which means next time (we will give you payment), but we’re here to make a positive connection with them and this is a small gesture.

When we arrived in town we met with Cezar, our local contact. He directed us to a mechanic who helped with low cost repairs for missionaries. When we picked up the truck a day later and paid the shockingly low sum of \$35.00 US for two days of work, I gave them a thumbs up and spoke to them in Miskito saying, “tanki pali ” which means thank you. Behind me I heard a few chuckles so I turned around and asked what was so funny. The one mechanic answered, “we have never heard someone that looks like you, try to speak our language.”

We all laughed about my basic communication skills, but they were impressed that I was trying.



We also had the air conditioner topped up by a second mechanic who is not a Christian. He charged us nothing, however, as he also appreciates the good work the missionaries are doing for his community. Each person we met treated us with kindness, made us smile, and gave the thumbs up in return; a reassurance that the work we do here is respected in the region.

Good News: One of our financial partners in Canada has contributed funds to help support a school in La Trinidad, near the Nicaraguan SDA Conference in Matagalpa.

We are thankful that with your donations we continue to reach and partner with many more regions of Nicaragua.

There is still a need for a Conference trained pastor to be situated within the community - financial goal of \$6000.00



UPDATE: NORTHERN ONTARIO

We have had to do a cylinder replacement on the Cessna 185 float plane. Currently, due to Covid19 lockdown and fire restrictions, we have not been able to visit the region. Garth Geddes is actively in Sioux Lookout as pastor and project manager. We want to give a thumbs up to him for keeping us informed of the needs that arise. Please pray for this region.

Thank you and God bless!

Ray and Julie Young



Your AWA Mission Family
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