



Growing Pains

In Mark 10:14, Jesus says, “Let the little children come to Me, and do not forbid them; for of such is the kingdom of God.”

This verse is a battle cry for Glenda. Almost immediately we realized that our little church congregation in La Tronquera was sadly negligent in taking care of the children’s spiritual needs. The children’s Sabbath School room had been lent to a secular business, so Glenda was teaching the kids outside, fighting the sun, rain, and biting bugs, among other distractions, in order to give special attention to our younger visitors.

It became clear that we needed to make special considerations for the children, so rather than having a separate class for them, we felt impressed to make the first part of our service directed toward them. We begin church with several Miskito hymns and praises, and then we begin the children’s program. Glenda will tell a story and give practical lessons on a topic, followed by giving

each of the children a coloring page on that topic. Jordana and Enoch often are the artists of the coloring page. While the children are coloring, I will give the same topic to the adults. Then we finish the service with prayer and song. The children are rewarded for being reverent with a sticker, and they show their finished coloring page to the whole congregation.

Previously, the children were all but ignored. The service would go on and on with always the same person talking, so the children understandably would make noise, complain and leave. The adults would be distracted, not participating, other than the singing. When asked to read a verse, they would give the excuse that they didn’t bring their glasses, that is if they had their Bible with them at all. This routine had become so familiar that it was hard for many when we started making changes. They wanted things to stay as they were. This is a danger for any of us when we get comfortable with routines or traditions, rather than looking for the Holy Spirit’s guiding power.

We are excited to report that the children are now eager to come to church, coming early and inviting their friends.



The adults are now participating in the service. All bring their Bibles and highlight the verses we are discussing, reading aloud when asked. It is like new life has been breathed into the church. As we are learning Bible truths, shared practically, the Holy Spirit has blessed. Three children were baptized in the creek on the mission base when the regional pastor visited last month, and more showed interest, desiring Bible study. Praise the Lord!


The Devil is working hard too, but we choose to celebrate God's victories, giving Him all the glory for how

He is working on the hearts of the Miskito community, and ours too! As always, we thank you for your support. We are all working together to grow the kingdom of God. Jesus is coming soon!

God bless you!


Your AWA Nicaragua Mission Families

 **PRAYER REQUEST:**
Safety and protection for the family.

 **PROJECT NEEDS:**
 #1 Toyota Truck ~ Low Mileage, Reliable, 4 wheel drive \$28,000-35,000
 #2 Remodeling Mission Base into a Community Health & Learning Center \$7,000

Your AWA Mission Families for the AWA Nicaragua Mission Project

Caleb Runne, Glenda Escudero, Jordana and Enoch



Josh and Yosiday Fix Caleb and Isaac

