



BEAUTY FROM ASHES

Last month we got a heart-breaking phone call. The mother of a young woman who had given birth in the hospital was asking us to transport her newborn grandson home. He had aspirated meconium, and the hospital staff had been careless in treating him, so he died, just two days after birth. It was an unnecessary loss of life, worsened by the fact that the grandmother had attempted both to awaken the doctor and nurses to her grandson's peril and to have a pastor pray over the child, but she was denied in both instances. The baby's mother never even saw him, as she was recovering from the Cesarean section surgery.

When we picked up the grandmother and the baby's father at the hospital, she was carrying what appeared to be a cardboard box. With tears in her eyes, she related her

experience over the past couple of days. It was hard not to feel angry at the negligence and cruelty demonstrated by the staff. We tried to comfort them with Bible verses that God knows the names of His children even while in the womb, and that all the injustice will be made right when Jesus returns.

When we arrived at the grandmother's home, many family and community members were waiting to help prepare the child for burial and comfort the family. We watched as they lovingly bathed the baby boy, who was strangely beautiful. He appeared to be happily sleeping, a slight smile on his mouth. The father and grandfather worked to build a small wooden casket, while other community members dug the grave. The grandmother asked that we perform a funeral service, so we picked up the regional pastor who was able to preach in Miskito. We sang Miskito hymns, and mourned and prayed with those present.



Tikiamp is the name of that community, about a thirty-minute drive from the mission base. We have had several opportunities to help others from there with problems such as kidney infections, musculoskeletal injuries, infections, pregnancy-related conditions, etc. There is also a small group that has expressed interest in Bible studies and others who want to open a church there. God's Spirit has truly been working ahead of our arrival.

A few days after the funeral, the mother of the deceased baby was well enough to be released from the hospital, so the grandmother again called and asked if we would bring her home so she wouldn't have to ride the uncomfortable bus while her surgery site was still fragile and painful. Another day about a week later, we brought her to have her stitches removed, along with several other ill people, to a nearby clinic. On the way back home, the grandmother, in an expression of gratitude for all our help, unexpectedly offered to give us land to build a church in Tikiamp! God works in mysterious ways. We are eager to see how He is turning this tragedy into a blessing.

"The Spirit of the Lord God is upon me; because the Lord hath anointed me to preach good tidings unto the meek; he hath sent me to bind up the brokenhearted, to proclaim liberty to the captives, and the opening of the prison to them that are bound; To proclaim the acceptable year of the Lord, and the day of vengeance of our God; to comfort all that mourn;

To appoint unto them that mourn in Zion, to give unto them beauty for ashes, the oil of joy for mourning, the garment of praise for the spirit of heaviness; that they might be called trees of righteousness, the planting of the Lord, that he might be glorified."

—Isaiah 61:1-3

God bless you!

Your AWA Nicaragua Mission Families

Your AWA Mission Families for the AWA Nicaragua Mission Project

**Caleb Runne,
Glenda Escudero,
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Caleb and Isaac**