



HAPPY ANNIVERSARY

We have officially been serving as missionaries to the Miskito people of Nicaragua for a year. In some ways, it feels like we just got here, and in other ways, as if we have been here for a lifetime. We thought it would be good to share with you, our supporters, what we have learned and where we feel God is leading us for the future.

The Miskito people are very social, strong workers, love to sing, are joyful, respectful, and loyal to their mothers; they walk long distances to plant their staples (corn, rice, and yucca), are connected to their land, and value relationships over belongings.

Unfortunately, as a result of war, exploitation, and unintentional damage done by well-meaning missionaries, government aid, and humanitarian efforts, the Miskito people have largely forgotten their language and become dependent on outside help. Little memory exists of how they survived before welfare efforts. Envy and entitlement have obscured their vision

of the abundant blessings they enjoy and could make good use of.

God wants us to prosper, to be in good health even as our soul prospers. He doesn't do for us what we can do for ourselves. After spending a year living with the Miskito people and praying for wisdom on how best to serve their needs, while ultimately trying to give them a true picture of their Creator and His plan of salvation, we have received an answer. To put it simply, education.

Very few publications exist in the Miskito language. Thankfully, the Bible has been translated, but many cannot afford one and struggle to read and understand its contents. They rely on their clergy to interpret for them, and their traditional spiritualism. Historically, that has always led to darkness and unbiblical traditions that keep people in bondage.

The truth, however, will set you free. We have already begun to create studies using their cultural elements. They are simply written so we can show biblical answers to practical needs such as health, nutrition, and




relationships, as well as eternal needs like salvation, the origin of sin, life after death, etc. Because the Miskito people are very visual, we want to create attractive pamphlet-style studies with pictures. We also have been blessed to find a talented and motivated translator who is putting our studies into Miskito.

As we bring these studies to the porches of our Miskito neighbors, they invite their families and friends, and we see their eyes and minds light up as they discover the truth of God's word.

The Holy Spirit is the only one who can lead a soul to truth. We desire to cooperate with God, providing attractive, contextual, and simple Bible studies that empower the Miskito people, adults, and children, to improve their lives; today and for eternity. Will you join us in our renewed focus?

God bless you!

Your AWA Mission Family stationed at the AWA Nicaragua Mission Project:



**Caleb Runne and Glenda Escudero,
Jordana and Enoch**