

# Dennis Thomas Family Serving in Latin America

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Greetings to fellow laborers and supporters of this ministry. Even in this troubled time of wars and rumors of wars, with distress on every side, the light of the gospel goes forth and believers have courage to stand unwavering on the principles of God's Holy Word. Satan threatened to shut down the teaching of God's word in Nicaragua yet in our absence, believers are more determined to stand resolutely.

I have been offered to go to Cuba with Cubans doing business in Central America yet living in Costa Rica and to be with their families. Also, I have a brother in Christ who is Venezuelan having found refuge in Costa Rica desires to go with me to visit his family in Venezuela. We will make these trips as soon as I have peace from God. Just as Paul in Acts 16, there are many reasonable directions but only one Macedonian call. Knowing that these are the last days we must respond to the impulses and opportunities provided by the Holy Spirit. The sword of the Spirit is the Word of God but there is a dearth of knowledge of the Bible in the world. So ... what are we gonna do?



In the year of 2000 we moved to Granada, Nicaragua. Blood, sweat and tears later, the Messiah Baptist Church was begun. 22 years later, we again return to celebrate their anniversary. The bus trip was 12 hours each way during which we were reminded that we are not young. The country is a dangerous place to live. Anyone can report you for speaking negatively about the president and you will be put in jail. Sunday morning, I preached on Jesus Christ, the Cornerstone, Marlito was saved. I led his parents to Christ many years ago and later conducted their marriage ceremony. Marlito is Granada's reigning chess champion. Such a fine young man! That which Christ does in the heart and life is enduring and bears fruit. Through extreme difficulties, Hermano Luis has been a faithful, faithful pastor. Children who Jolaine taught in Sunday School are now adults, working as security guards, hotel managers, fireman, married and living in Sweden, etc. Oh, how our hearts are encouraged.



Dimas, A most clear and simple presentation of the Gospel ended up lasting 2 hours as I met with Dimas today. He cannot attend church on Sundays because of his work. He is a guard for the American Embassy in Managua. We will begin studies on Monday afternoons at 2:00! Pray for Dimas!  
Oh, God, open his heart!



## Progress... In Granada

Daily milk delivery not by horses but by motorcycle! What's this world a comin' to!!!!



Our first trip back in almost 4 years. My lottery vendor friend is thrilled to see me! She says "you never failed to invite me to church", I respond "And you never failed to try and sell me chicle and lottery tickets". What sweet n' sweaty hugs and kisses!



"...I have chosen you and ordained you, that ye should go and bring forth fruit and that your fruit should remain..."

Many of you...so many years ago, prayed for Dimas by name and celebrated his new life in Christ. To sit today with those little 'boys' who were taught in Sunday School to the young men they are today just makes us rejoice in that promise of 'remaining fruit' even more.

## Conceptos Bíblicos

... que alegran el corazón  
... que alumbra los ojos.

Continuing in those things that bring REJOICING TO THE HEART and ENLIGHTENMENT TO THE EYES.

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Recently, we made a huge breakthrough with our website. We had so many listeners, students and churches requesting our two-sided 'tract' form of each concept. These are used as witnessing tools for new believers. Also being used in Church/Bible Study settings as 'devotional/responsive' readings. The lack of dependable mail service and the expense of doing so has now been greatly alleviated. It'll be a matter of 'time' to get it all published. You could have heard Jolaine a 'shoutin' when she finally figured it out! We continue in our Bible Studies and training of men and constant witnessing and ministry to the lost. Thursdays are given to teaching through God's 'Plan for the Ages' as we are just beginning classes on the 'Law'. Current Concept writings, yet to be recorded, include: **Postreros Días** (Last Days), **Tolerancia** (Tolerance); **Animar** (Encourage); **Apatia** (Apathy).



Upon our return from Nicaragua, we began recuperating, parasite treatments, class preparations and this missions report to be completed. Our hearts were full of joy and praise over what we'd seen the Lord do in Nicaragua. Then, in a moment, our world changed, and we've been carried through a time of great sorrow. In few, tear-filled words... we received a call that our youngest boy, our son Charlie, 41 years old, living in N.C., went in for lunch and there went into cardiac arrest. CPR was started immediately. The medical team arrived and worked with him eight minutes attempting to restore his heartbeat...eight minutes without oxygen. We flew out of Costa Rica on the next flight to South Carolina, meeting family and traveling on to North Carolina. Rules broken in ICU to allow us in at midnight to see our precious son. It was obvious the decision that was to be made. We waited on more family to arrive before taking that final step which we all chose to be a part of. The room was filled with brokenness and flowing with tears. Nothing can make this right! The loss of our dear son has left us devastated and heart shattered. We are back on the field with the strength to carry on but just under the surface an ocean of emotion and pain...attempting to 'go on'. Please call our names before the throne, pray for us and all our family. Charlie has joined the company of our dearest and best. Little by little we are congregating on that blessed and peaceful shore. Charlie's spirit is back in hands of the one who gave it.

Hijito, as is said in the Psalms ... our "soul melteth with heaviness" ... our grief as deep as our love and joy in you. "We will meet you in the morning just inside the Eastern Gate over there." beloved son.