

November 19, 2010

Hi the sun is shining ..We had a nice rain shower this morning which helps with the dusty roads. My living room is full of young boys who have discovered that I have games; UNO, Dominos, Playing Cards, Chess, Checkers and Chinese checkers. Plus I have a dog. What more do young boys need. Since today is my day off I am in the bedroom away from the chaos. Today is the last day of school so the kids have names scribbled all over their shirts and their faces are covered with glitter. The school year runs from the first week of February to the third week in November. So I have turned in all my report cards for all the students in English classes. This Saturday there is a school board meeting and we will be selecting a new director for the 7th, 8th and 9th grade that is going to be in the afternoon. Actually they have confirmed having a 7th grade but 8th and 9th is still up for discussion. We also need to decide who is the new Director for the Jr High classes. It will be someone different because the current Director is not taking that job.

Also this Saturday the Young Adults are meeting to sew up dozens of clothe bags for our trip to the Jail. We are putting together a comfort bag with toothpaste and tooth brush etc for the women in the jail. We are also planning to visit the maternity home where there are about 20 young pregnant women who have no family to take care of them. In each place we will sing, read scripture and pray. On Saturday evening there is a special worship service to celebrate the Day of the Bible. I think this is the anniversary of the Miskito translation of the Bible. I will be reading scripture (not in Miskito). So tomorrow will be a busy day.

The next month is extremely busy with all kinds of Christmas activities. We have a special night for decorating the tree and of course Christmas Caroling. Plus all the regular meetings.

We just had our Harvest Celebration last Sunday. The church was decorated and there was a big sale afterwards. The profit was a bit over 19,000 C which is about 5,000\$ but apparently the goal was higher so there is some disappointment that we did not meet our goal. However the crowd was festive and there was lots of laughter so we all had fun.

We had a special visitor this past week. Rev. Joe Nickolas from Miami Florida, was here for a few days. He has a Moravian congregation in Miami with lots of Nicaraguans and many of them have family here. So they are about to celebrate their 20th anniversary so he felt a trip here would give him more insight in the folks in his congregation. We enjoyed having him and I think he enjoyed his visit here.

Our congregation is planning to go to one service in the afternoon at 4pm. We are going to start this in January. So we are announcing it now so everyone knows about the change. We get a small congregation at both services so we are going to try this and evaluate whether or not it makes a difference. We are also going to have a hymn sing to practice new hymns in our new hymn book. This is one thing that transcends cultures. The resistance to learning new hymns. When they grumbled a bit I laughed at them and said you are acting like typical Canadian choirs!..

I am still studying Spanish three times a week. There are times when I think I will never be bilingual and yet I learn a new verb every week and I am beginning to understand

conversations, particularly if I know the context. However I still feel like an outsider when there are clergy meetings because they speak Miskito. So I keep thinking I will learn some Miskito next year. I can not hope to learn two languages at the same time but I have picked up the hello, please and thank you and how are you..tanki pali....

Don is still working at ADSIM. He enjoys it. He gets to meet all kinds of people especially people working for NGO's because they all come to get their water. He is picking up some Spanish words and understands more of what is being said but he has trouble speaking. So at this point I translate for him. Don has been proposing to ADSIM that they put wells in all the church property so everyone in the barrio can get access to water. There are many barrios that do not have water at all. Don is passionate about this so we are hoping that the Book of Hope will provide some funding to get this started. We will focus on those barrios that do not have access to municipal water (which comes on every month or so. One of the issues is that some barrios are too close to the ocean and the surface water is contaminated by sea water. So they need deep wells to get to clean water. We should have some news about this in about 6 weeks but we are hopeful.

We have been contacted to be wardens for other Canadians in the area during some kind of emergency. Hurricane etc. So we have agreed and I am waiting for more information from the embassy. It makes sense in that we have buildings that could probably withstand hurricanes. We are close to the airport for evacuation if necessary. The red cross and UN office are one block away. Plus I doubt if there lots of Canadians in this area so we are not talking about hundreds of people.

Cathy Hoyle was kind enough to send me information about the world Day of Prayer in March. So I have downloaded all the material and am waiting for them to send me the leaders guide which is not on their web site. In January we will be leaving again for a week and this time I think we are going to Belize.

Two of our children and our granddaughter are coming in three weeks. They are going to be here for 2 full days so we are looking forward to being with family before Christmas. So the next month is busy and before we know it will be Christmas. So God be with you in your preparations for the great celebration. Don't forget to support the Mission and Service Fund. Maybe make a M&S Christmas gift on behalf of your family.

In Christ's Name

Deborah and Donald

