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## NPMI Gathering Provides Warmth on an Icy Winter Day

January 31, 2009 was a cold, icy day, yet more than 35 people turned out for the first NPMI Gathering at Centenary United Methodist Church in Lexington. The purpose was to share experiences, and to inform others of the exciting work going on in Nicaragua. In planning the event, it quickly became apparent that there was more than two-hours worth to tell.

We began with a brief summary of how it all began in July 2001 with the REC in La Esperanza Women's prison in Managua, Nicaragua. Only God Himself knew the significance of what He was about to do through that team and others to follow. How has He done it? -- He has simply provided us the opportunity to love the prisoners where they are, and to let His light shine through us. It is safe to say that all of the teams have returned having changed as much as those they have served.



Sandra Johnson, Wanda Goerz and Amy Dougherty

The gathering was a means to share collective experiences with each other, our supporters and persons interested in becoming involved in the ministry. Pictures, videos, poster displays, and food surrounded us, but the passion for the ministry was most strongly felt through brief personal testimonies of nine speakers. Yes, nine, but not one person in the audience appeared disinterested, or bored. In fact, we plan to continue these gatherings at least twice each year, and *the date of August 8, is already set for the next one.* *Mark your calendar now and plan to attend.*

Topics covered during the event included: Hygiene products for abandoned prisoners; Challenges and joys of working with multicultural, multinational, ecumenical teams; Provision of an exercise yard for prisoners who previously had no access to outdoor activity; Provision of ample clean safe water for two prisons; Procuring the donation of tons of medicines, supplies, equipment, beds, and mattresses; Provision of legal assistance to indigent prisoners, discipleship classes and resource materials for volunteer leaders. Bible teacher training is provided to prisoners who in turn, teach their peers; And most recently, a medical team from Lexington provided basic medical services including gynecological care and medications. It astounded even those of us on the Board to realize that even with non-stop sharing, we couldn't cover everything God has done through us in the short existence of this ministry.

NPMI Legal Representative, Nancy Guido was present and shared how working in the prisons has impacted her life. We viewed a video where Nancy interviewed Missionary, Gixel Briceño regarding her and other volunteers' day-to-day work in the prisons. See the video on our website at <http://www.npmi.org/video/npmi09jan.wmv>. REC was, and is still

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*Peter was kept in prison,  
but the church was earnestly  
praying to God for him.*

*Acts 12:5*

Let us pray for our  
brothers and sisters  
who are in prison.

## NPMI Gathering (continued from pg 1)



the core of NPMI's work. It is a powerful tool for prisoners to encounter Christ, the source of love and hope. More information on the upcoming 2009 REC is available elsewhere in this publication, and on our website. Prisoners were prayed for by name and each person left with the name of a specific prisoner to continue praying for in the coming months.

*Pictured left to right: Dr. Jeanie Dassow , Medical Team Leader 2008, Amy Dougherty and Nancy Guido legal assistance providers.*

## PRISONERS SHARE THEIR TESTIMONIES

Dear brothers and sisters:

May Jehovah all mighty, fill of rich and abundant blessings to your lives. It is the desire of my heart to share with you my testimony. For the glory and honor of our Lord Jesus Christ, I give faith and legality that only with Jesus Christ, his love and mercy we can change our life.

My Name is Christian Margarita Lopez Tellez and I am 28 years old. I used to live as a person with bad behavior, obstinate, and bad ways: I frequented bad places such as bars, drinking and hanging out with bad people.

One day I got married and I thought that my problems were solved; I thought I was in a fairy tale. I thought I would be happy; but then the ugly truth began. My husband hit me, he did not leave me any food to eat and he went to the streets and disappeared for several days.

I was distressed and I began to investigate him. I discovered that he deceived me with a very beautiful and intelligent young lady. I felt very bad and I began to have many conflicts with him. We fought every day and I thought we would divorce; it was a really bad situation.

One day, I followed him (I had a knife) and I found both of them very happy. This is when I understood that they loved each other and that I was only like a "toy" for him. In an instant I rushed toward her and attacked her. I was in a blind rage and stabbed her near the heart. The lady died and my husband was the first one to call for "Justice". They condemned me to 28 years of prison and there I felt that my life had finished.

I was transfer to this prison (La Esperanza) and

here I met JESUS through NPMI. Their love has invited me to go forward; I have decided to follow Jesus. I have asked him for forgiveness for what I did, I am very sorry for every thing and I know that He has washed me with His blood.

Now I am part of the group of "abandoned prisoners" that NPMI supports and I feel in my heart that you are my family, your love helps us to pass through this desert. I live according to God's will and with your help. With your good hearts, your prayers and your help with our basic necessities of personal hygiene products, many of my cell mates and I keep going. I have changed much and every day my goal is to be like our Lord, to fill my life with wisdom and one day to preach Jesus Christ's gospel through my testimony.

I love you in Jesus' name and I ask God to give us the opportunity to see all of you very soon.

***He has showed you, O man, what is good. And what does the Lord require of you? To act justly and to love mercy and to walk humbly with your God.***

Micah 6:8

## TESTIMONY OF CARLOS IN LA MODELAS

Carlos is 33 years old and n prison for homicide. He sought vengeance by killing the man who murdered his brother. Carlos is from Juigalpa, Chon-ales (Nicaragua).

The problem began, when Carlos' brother went to a party and danced with a girl. He didn't care that she was accompanied by her boyfriend. In a jealous rage the boyfriend killed Carlos's brother.

When Carlos heard the rumors, he took a gun and killed his brother's murderer.

He was sentenced to 25 years in prison, without parole. He was transferred to La Modelo prison in Managua because his life was in jeopardy from the other family.

He is part of our group of aban-

doned prisoners and His life has changed for the better. He thanks God that he doesn't feel any bitterness or hate in his heart.

Carlos has served 9 years of his sentence and before N.P.M.I. started supporting him, he did not receive any type of help from anyone. Since he has been included in the group of abandoned prisoners he has felt better and he is participating in a Bible Study. He has also had the opportunity to learn more and study. Soon he will have his GED.

Carlos thanks N.P.M.I. for their support because the only help he has received has been from our Ministry.

With the help of God, Carlos

has experi- e n c e d some legal blessings; his judge visited him and told Carlos that soon he will have his freedom. This is a great miracle. Since it is not common that a person with a high sentence (for homicide) serves only 9 years, Carlos knows that only God can do this.

After he participated in R.E.C., his life changed totally. Carlos is walking in his new life with the help of brothers who are volunteers in NPMI. As you can see, our Ministry, is fruitful and a great blessing for the prisoners. Carlos hopes to meet you one day ,to thank you for all your support.



Please pray for:  
**REC 2009**  
Dates: July 1,2,3  
Managua Nicaragua

Our second team meeting will be held on Saturday, May 9th from 2-4 p.m. at Centenary UMC on Tates Creek Road in Lexington KY.

Final Meeting ...  
June 6th

The team leaves on June 27, and returns July 5.

## TESTIMONY - JOAQUIN IN LA MODELO

My name is Joaquín, I am 45 years old and I was in jail at La Modelo's prison in Tipitapa, Nicaragua. My sentence was for 20 years, for Rape and Robbery. This sentence was fair for what I did and this is my Testimony:

I was a military man from the Sandinista Front. I left family and all I had. I didn't have good things in my heart; I grew up with hate towards my mother because she gave me to my aunt as if I was an animal.

I went to the streets and began to do bad things. I was a young man with no respect for authority, rebellious and with many bad habits. I was imprisoned at the end of the 2002.

In prison, I began to participate in the activities of NPMI; I was one of the abandoned prisoners. Through NPMI, I heard that God exists and that He loves me.

To be honest, at the beginning, I did not believe that God could love a criminal like me, but the activities of NPMI and the people who visited showed me that God is a real God and that He loves me like a son. So, I accepted Jesus as my personal Savior.

Although I was still in jail, I got a new life... a new heart. Later, through NPMI I started to study the Word of God. In 2006 and 2007 I was the President of the Evangelical Pastors of the prison. I became a leader and learned

how to use the gifts that God has given me.

God opened the doors of the prison and I was set free after serving only 7 years; I am on probation for 1 year. God liberated me from 12 more years of prison!

Now I am giving my testimony to the whole Board of Director of NPMI, and I would like to express my gratefulness to all of you for your great help and support.

My brothers and sisters, I am a fruit of REC and of NPMI. NPMI helped me to come to Christ, and REC I strengthened me as leader for Jesus.



Have you been using your Kroger card to help NPMI? If you don't already have a card from NPMI, request one today. Just send \$5 to:

NPMI  
P O Box 4560  
Lexington, KY 40544

Please be sure to include your name and address. We will then mail a card which will already be loaded with the \$5 amount when you receive it. You can then add any amount to the card.

If you already have a card and have not been using it, please remember how easy it is to help support NPMI in this cost-free way. **THANK YOU FOR YOUR SUPPORT**

## DISCIPLESHIP TRAINING—MONTEBARTELS

In the spring of 2008 NPMI started a discipleship program for leaders in the Christian community outside the prison who, in turn will assist in training other leaders within the prison. The same leaders who come in from the outside will follow up with the prisoners after they are released. The after-care will help the prisoners transition back into society. The trained community leaders provide a network through which the ex-prisoners become involved in a local church and find a new circle of

friends to support them and hold them accountable in their Christian walk outside the prison. It stands to reason that if a prisoner is abandoned while in prison, no support group will be waiting to support them on the outside. This type of after-care has been successfully modeled by Gixel on a small scale, and it dovetails nicely with her current leadership in the Discipleship program. A pastor developed the program and helps teach it. Six people now help Gixel in Managua, and eight or ten others help in

Juigalpa. Already some released prisoners volunteer in the prisons themselves on a weekly basis. Others have returned to help work on REC teams. By combining the Discipleship/After Care Initiative into a formal program, Gixel can coordinate its overall implementation. Volunteers like the immediacy of evangelism, yet the longer process of discipleship must take place if individuals attain the righteousness God asks us to strive for. Pray for more volunteers.



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Find us on the web:  
[www.npmi.org](http://www.npmi.org)