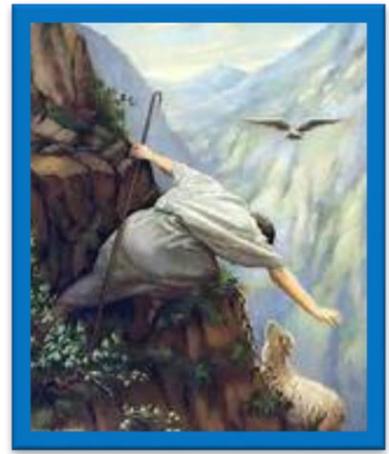


Lost Sheep Ministry News

January 2019--Nicaragua

The Great Commission: Matthew 28: 18 - 20 is a commission for *all* Christians to *go, make Disciples*, baptize them, and *teach* them to *OBEY* all that I have commanded. LSM is dedicated to evangelizing the lost and making Disciples of Christ that make Disciples of Christ according to II Timothy 2:2.

Notes from Pastor Bob: Jon Friesen and I are returning to Nicaragua now that civil unrest has subsided. We will focus our mission to the Pacific side of the nation at a drug and alcohol recovery center (Hodera) south of Managua. We get lots of support from Pastor Jairo Sanchez of LaRoca church each time we return to this part of the world.



Friday January 25, 8 a.m. It's time for me to start writing this trip report before I forget what happened. Jon Friesen and I left Houston Intercontinental on Wednesday the 23rd for our flight to Managua on United Airlines. Yes, PTL! United has resumed flying into Nicaragua. Last April I was here with my son Joshua when the protests began, and the U.S. Embassy recommending that all U.S. citizens return to the USA. Shortly

after that United Airlines cancelled all their flights into Nicaragua.

I have been praying for an opportunity to return all these months and finally made that decision after several phone calls with my friends in Nicaragua. They stated that they felt it was safe for me to return. Our flight left at 9:45 a.m. and arrived at 1 p.m. Pastor Jairo was at the airport to pick us up.

Wednesday night we returned to my favorite fishing hole the Hodera in San Marcos which is a drug and alcohol recovery center. I always began the process of getting to earn the trust of the residents there.



Thursday we were there from 9:30 a.m. to 11:30 a.m. where we began with prayer, praise songs (worship) and Bible teaching.

Thursday afternoon we continued to pray, praise and teach. I shared some testimonies from our previous trip last April and they are powerful: Two hours of solid Bible instructions.

I also met with Miguel Lopez the director who I led to the Lord 25 years ago. He came to my home that year and I baptized him at Sagmont Church in Houston, TX. He really has given me carte blanche at the Hodera allowing me to set my schedule.



I explained that we would baptize this coming Saturday and have a pinata for the men on Saturday and then on Sunday have one for the children who visit. Sunday is family visitation and I always attend to meet the family members.

Thursday night we showed the *Passion of the Christ* video and then drew the net. Everyone dropped to their knees and prayed to make Jesus Lord of their lives! I don't know how many yet. This morning I will get a list so I can begin preparing the Spiritual Birth Certificates.

We closed the meeting with a candle lighting service where we gave all the men an unlit candle then turned off the lights and Jon and I lit our candles and then went to my right and Jon's left around the circle each one lighting the candle on the one beside them. Very beautiful as we sang *This Little Light of Mine*, I'm going to make it shine, make it shine, make it shine! Wow, it really was beautiful to witness. We sang several more praise songs before prayers closing our time together until tomorrow morning.

Friday Morning: We enjoyed prayer, praise, worship and Bible teaching on the Ten Commandments

Friday evening: we continued with prayer, praise & worship as well as showing *Facing the Giants* movie. When we offered an invitation to receive Christ as Lord & Savior, fourteen (14) responded.

We enjoyed pizza last night provided by brother Marcos who owns *Pizza to Go*. He is truly a brother who desires to serve with us as translator, driver, and provider. We gave each resident a New Testament with Psalms and Proverbs provided by brother Cesar a local Gideon who works at Kaiser University. He has been providing Bibles for us for many years now. I had everyone stand and read the several verses.

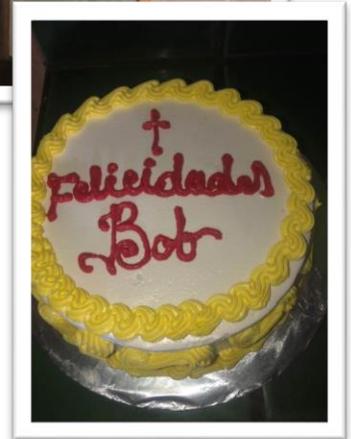
I continue to be in awe of the power of the Word of God!



We provided the twenty who accepted Christ on Thursday evening a Spiritual Birth Certificate along with a Dove pin symbolic of the Holy Spirit. We (Jon & I) really do saturate them with the Word of God. We invite one of them to lead in prayer each time we pray. We listen to their responses as to how the movie spoke to their hearts.

Saturday: Today I will have the remaining fourteen certificates printed for those who received Christ last night. We will have baptism this morning then this afternoon cake and ice cream for celebration as well as the pinata filled with candy for them. Tonight, we will show the *Jesus Film* through the eyes of children and present each of them with a copy. Tomorrow they can share them with the family members who visit as well as we will have another pinata for the children visiting.

Sunday: Yesterday was another awesome day serving Jesus at the Hodera. We baptized ten men in the morning. In the afternoon we had a



celebration combination birthday party with cake & ice cream. We sang happy birthday celebrating our spiritual birthdays. And then the real fun laughter and Joy are become little boys.

began. The pinata! The contagious. Grown men Grown women become little girls. I want to thank Jon Friesen for suggesting this many years ago.

Last night I met with Miguel Lopez and he share with me his gratitude for all the years I have been visiting. My first visit was 1996. 23 years of repeated joy seeing hundreds come to Christ, baptizing them and giving them solid Biblical instructions. He told me that Francisco Lopez who is the 2nd most powerful man in this country told him “give Reverend Gibson absolute freedom at the Hodera.” I led both Francisco and Miguel to the Lord and their family members (wife & children). He told me that graduation was tomorrow (Sunday Morning at 10:00 am). He would like me to come and share with the family members. So, Jon will present the message at La Rocca, Jairo’s church and I will share the Good News at the Hodera.

I went to the meeting room and passed out the fourteen additional birth certificates with dove pins, and then gave everyone a crocheted cross thanks to Patsy Dainwood. They really are beautiful and greatly appreciated by those receiving them. I showed *The Story of Jesus Through the Eyes of Children* and closed in prayer. Another young lady came and said I prayed to receive Christ as my Savior and I want a birth certificate. So, this morning on my way we’ll print one for her at the copy shop.

We will return to the USA tomorrow.

Sunday evening

Another great day serving the Lord. The Family program started at 9:30 a.m. We enjoyed great worship music, testimonies, and I shared the gospel message which concluded with everyone on their knees and many were repeating the sinner’s prayer after me. The children loved the Pinata time and the parents (mostly moms) were having great fun. Maybe we should have some Pinata times in our churches. I don’t know how many were saved but I believe about 130 at this meeting plus 35 clients plus the 4 last night so I believe we may have witnessed 169 pray to receive Christ. We baptized ten men and gave fifteen hours of solid Bible instruction as well as showing the *God is Not Dead*, *Passion of the Christ*, *Facing the Giants*, and *Jesus Film* movies.

I really look forward to returning in April. How about you will you join me?

Monday morning.

I wanted to add a brief recap of thoughts that came to my mind about the blessings that God has allowed us to share on this trip. We gave away 100 Jesus films, six evangel cubes to Cesar our Gideon man who gave us fifty New Testaments to distribute to the residents, three evangel cubes to Pastor Jairo at La Rocca church and a daily study guide. We also presented many spiritual birth certificates, and a *Pilgrim's Progress* DVD to Carlos our translator. The computer I am typing on right now will be dropped off at the Hodera on our way to the airport for Miguel Lopez. Snacks each night (sodas and cookies), pizza, bread sticks in the morning, cake & ice cream for celebration service, and two pinatas plus financial support. Wow! Thank you, God, for your provision. We leave for the airport at 9:00 a.m. with Sandra the owner of the Place Inn giving us a ride. I shared before in a previous Newsletter that I led her to the Lord and baptized her in a tub in the hotel. She has been very gracious to Jon and me.

Jon will be leaving for Vietnam on the 4th of February to get married on the 24 of February. I will leave on the 13th of February and fly through Guam where I will stay for four days visiting my grandson Tommy Helton. He is a corpsman in the navy stationed there. I will travel through Hong Kong and arrive in Vietnam on the 19th to attend Jon's wedding and of course meet with my friends there, minister to them, and do all that God's Holy Spirit directs me to. I will return home on the 26th of February.

I want to thank those dear ones that provide prayer support and financial support to Lost Sheep Ministries which allows me to travel and accomplish what God has prepared for me to do.

Comments by Jon Friesen:

This is my 11th mission trip ministering with the Hodera rehabilitation center and the country of Nicaragua with Pastor Bob Gibson, the blessings continue to shower upon this ministry as we are faithful to follow where Jesus Christ has led us. This will be my last mission trip for a while with Lost Sheep Ministries and Pastor Bob as I begin mission work in Vietnam February 5th, 2019.

Every mission trip begins at the heart of God with prayer for the lost and a steadfast love to be faithful to the calling to go and share the Good News. It was here in Nicaragua that God spoke to me and where Pastor Bob ordained me to preach Gods word. I remember Bob instructing me on this calling for my life.

He said: "Jon, the Bible says: woe unto you if you do not preach the word ...

I first met Bob in 1988 where he was faithfully teaching a Sunday school class. Over the years we stayed in touch. But it wasn't until early in 2017 when Carol his wife called me with serious concerns about his health, she asked me to accompany him on a trip or two. What began as a onetime deal turned into three years. We have gone on fifteen mission trips together and God has always been faithful to complete what he has started, and He has graciously supplied all of our needs.

Early in our journeys together I believed God's plan for me was to assist Pastor Bob as directed with healthcare concerns and support him as an understudy or luggage carrier. Our ministry together was successful and complete as we complemented each other in many ways. Bob would tell me what to do and I would do it. I would mainly teach and apply the Ten Commandments, (the law) convicting the lost that we need a savior. Bob would go to the mercy seat of God to invite the Holy Spirit and presence of the Grace of God. Together we invited thousands of souls to kneel at the foot of the cross where Jesus paid it all with prayers of confession and repentance. Jesus wiped away their tears and restored their relationship to the Father through the Son.

In San Marcos Pastor Jairo Sanchez, (who; Bob ordained) of la Rocha church, picked us up from the airport, it was great to see the work this man has accomplished over the last three years. While the people of San Marco's are struggling economically their church has been a beacon of light witness to what God can do



with a servants heart. meeting their physical needs with emergency food supply and emotional needs with hope in Christ and prayers for their nation. Nicaragua is still under political conflict as the presence of military is heavily visible in populated areas. We were stopped only once during this trip by the police, in the background a soldier was holding his gun towards us, but we were never in any danger.

During this mission trip, I was able to follow up and encourage a young lady, Maria and her family. We had led them to the Lord three years ago, at the Hodera. This family has four daughters, their house has a dirt floor and along with many other families there are struggling economically.

Throughout the week we strengthen the men and women with biblical principles through the word of God. our friend Cesar, (a Gideon) supplied us with all the Bibles we needed

At the end of the week pastor Bob Gibson and I split up as I preached at the LaRoca church a message on first fruits and harvest of souls. With Marcos (another man, ordained by Bob) as my interpreter, while Bob spoke at the Hodera graduation ceremony.

In 1 John 3: 16 & 17 John the son of Zebedee wrote: “By this we know love, that he laid down his life for us, and we are about to lay down our lives for our brothers. But if anyone has the world’s goods and sees his brother In need, yet closes his heart against him, how does God’s love abide in him”.

I love descriptive passage as it points to the New Covenant we have in Jesus Christ and the will has for life.

In Hebrews 10:7 Jesus said: Behold, I have come to do your will, O God, as it is written of me ...

Isaiah 6:8 ...Here am I, send me! He said: Go ...

Thank you, pastor Bob Gibson, for the last three years of guiding me towards a full blessing of soul winning and for over 30 years of steadfast faithfulness from a Sunday school student of “Bob” to winner of souls and follower of “Christ”.

Recommended Reading: *Let’s Change the World* by John and Dot Overton, a process for becoming a co-worker with Christ to change the world. Evil seems to be winning! ISIS, civil unrest, hatred, etc. This is not God’s intention. He has dwelled among us and commissioned us to join Him in a conspiracy to chang evil to good. We must move beyond Bible study and obey its commands and commissions, much as a military person uses his/her field manual.

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