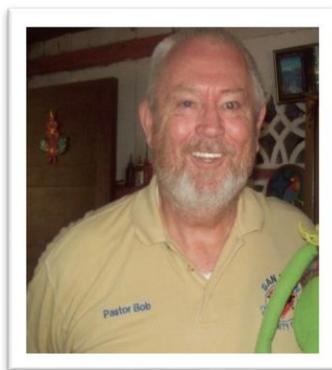
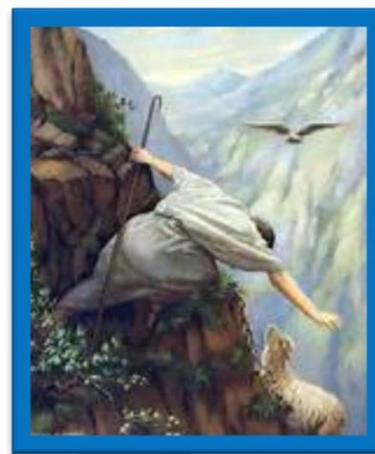


Lost Sheep Ministry News

April 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: April 05- 15, 2019: Jimmy Stanfield, and John and Wanda Mattison accompanied me back to Nicaragua. We have all visited churches and the Alcohol/Drug Addiction Recovery Center (Hodera) here previously.



Friday morning at 6 a.m. wife Carol drove Jimmy Stanfield, John and Wanda Matteson and me to the Houston, TX airport. I had to make some late changes to Jimmy and my travel plans as the plane was fully booked. So we won't be travelling

with John & Wanda. Plan B: - we will fly to Liberia, Costa Rica and rent a car and drive to San Marcos, Nicaragua. We arrived in Costa Rica about noon but another problem. You can't take a rental car across the border. Plan C: We will taxi to the border, walk across the border, taxi to San Marcos. An adventure! We arrived in San Marcos about 6 p.m. Mission accomplished! If you get a chance google wind-mill farms in Nicaragua. You will be amazed! I was! Miles of windmills on the route north. Over half the electricity in Nicaragua is produced by wind.

We went to **Pizza to Go** for dinner on Friday night. My dear friend Marcos is the owner. I license him to preach last year. He is a real solid Christian and a great help to Pastor Jairo Sanchez at La Rocca church.

Saturday, we rented a car for the day. We went to the Hodera but Miguel the manager wasn't there, so we went to visit Margarita and her family. She has a picture of Carol and I and prays multiple times daily for us. She will join with us next week to minister at the Hodera. We left about 11 a.m. and travelled to Sandino to visit Pastora Maria Palacios and Puerto de Cielo Doorway to Heaven church. John & Wanda shared with me how long it took for their ride from the airport to San Marcos yesterday. About 4 hours for what is normally a 1-hour ride. There is a lot of construction of roads and overpasses. I was happy to get to what I thought was Maria's home, but she moved to her mother's home. With the help of our driver Harrold and several phone calls we found her. A very joyous reunion! I have a great love for her family and her church. I brought some gifts for the church and agreed to return today (Sunday) for the 10 a.m. service.

Last night John & Wanda and I made the Eskimo ice cream run. We had a good time sharing candy, Jesus Film DVD's and Bible tracts with the folks at the ice cream store.

We covet your prayers as we minister today at Puerto de Cielo and wherever God sends us.



On Sunday we traveled by car to Ciudad Sandino to visit Iglesias Puerta de Cielo. Pastora Flor Maria is a longtime friend from one of my first visits here back in the late 1990's. Our reunion with so many old friends was a joyous time for me. I cried as I watched the Praise dance team honor God. I remembered several young ladies in their early 20's now being taught praise dance by Jaleh Borden and Lilian Brown. Their dresses are beautiful, and their praise brings honor to God.

Wanda, John, Jimmy and I each shared what God had placed on our hearts. I was encouraged by a large sign that shared their vision for Puerta de Cielo.

VISION FOR CHURCH IS LOVE GOD – SERVE GOD – LOVE EVERYONE – SERVE EVERYONE

Where there is no vision the people perish! Praise God that Puerta de Cielo has a vision!

Sunday evening, we visited Palabra de Vida in San Marcos. This is the first church I visited on my first visit to Nicaragua. They have a new Pastor Orlando Mendoza. He allowed me to share at the end of the service because so many people there know me and can vouch for me. I am a man of God, sent by God, with a message from God.

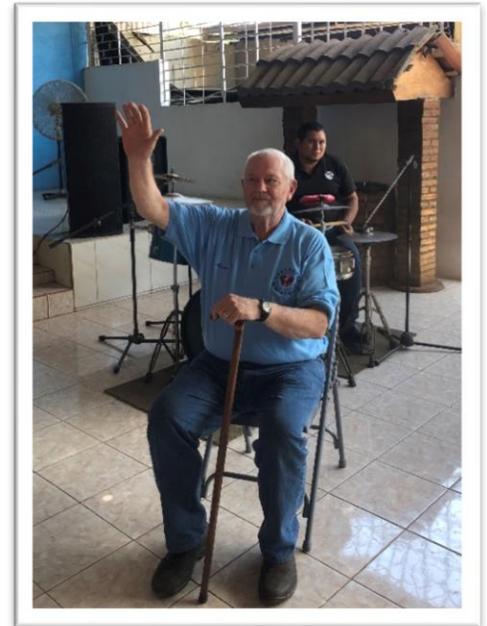
This church is dynamic church with an awesome praise and dance teams. The Kaiser University is near here and there are many students who attend. I met Carolina Nieman at the University when it was University of Mobile campus. I believe about 1996. She was a missionary on the campus and truly an awesome woman of God. She was single but before she returned to Florida to care for her mother, she was the first single woman allowed to adopt a baby girl. Esther was placed on her doorstep at birth and Carolina cared for her for several years and the government allowed her to adopt Esther and bring her to the states when she went home.

So, Sunday was a day of memories, tears of joy for me, remembering all my friends at Puerta de Cielo and Palabra de Vida.

Monday, we had a meeting at 10 a.m. with Miguel Lopez at the Hodera. I came here on my first trip in 1996 when Vice-president Bolanos asked me to visit his nephew at the Hodera. I had shared that Carol and I had a Stand Down Homes ministry for homeless veterans and were working with addicts daily.

I was able to lead Miguel to Christ and Sagemont Church helped by paying for him to come to Houston and I baptized him at Sagemont. Miguel stayed in my home for 8 days and every day we attended AA, NA group meetings along with the Right Step Meetings at Sagemont. God has given me complete freedom to serve at the Hodera for 23 years. More than 1,000 have been saved and baptized over the years. Our daily schedule is 9:00 am, 2:00 pm for praise, prayer, testimonies, and Bible instruction and 7 pm for movies. We introduced ourselves and outlined the plans for the week with the clients. Forty-nine men and four women. Oh, I forgot to mention that at our morning meeting with Miguel he stated that there are ten men on the waiting list, but they don't have beds for them. Well, they do now as our team members along with Sandra our host at The Place in San Marcos donated the funds to build the beds.

John, Wanda, Jimmy, and I shared brief testimonies. We played some praise songs and sang them. We then announced that we would have cake and ice cream on Friday, Pinata on Friday and again on Sunday at Family day for the children and baptism on Saturday.



Last night we showed the *Facing the Giants* movie. We had four men and one lady respond to my salvation message after the movie. Oops, not lady but she is only thirteen years old! She has been at the Hodera for one week. Wanda gave the three women and young girl a Teddy Bear thanks to Lifeway Christian Book Store who donated them to Lost Sheep Ministries. For many years Lifeway has provided (donated) materials for me to use on mission trips. Thanks to the Lifeway staff!

And now for the rest of the story. After the movie, a little later than 9:00 pm, Marcos who translated or me as he has for many years asked if we want to go to \$1.00 a plate roadside location and get some food. But they were closed so we went to a Seafood Restaurant where I had been before. A



wonderful meal and then God put the icing on the cake. While being waited on I asked the waiter “if you were to die right now and stand before God your Creator in heaven and he asks you “why should I let you enter my heaven?” how would you answer him?” He said let me take some time to analyze

that. About five minutes later he returned and said I would ask God to be merciful to me and allow me to enter. I then shared the Good News with him and he prayer to receive Christ! Other staff members were watching and came over and wanted to pray! Then God brought over two elderly gentlemen who were customers and had witnessed what had happened and they wanted to pray also. So, we had five souls at the Hodera and nine souls at the restaurant pray to receive Christ as their personal Savior. Jimmy brought me my computer and we prepared a Spiritual Birth Certificate for each of them. We will get them printed today and deliver five to the Hodera today and later the nine to the restaurant.

Wednesday I am typing now in the backseat of Sandra’s car as she drives to Managua. We have a 10 a.m. appointment with Pastor Pablo Garcia pastor Bethel Baptist church. He has served as leader of Baptist Pastors of Nicaragua union. Over the years he has been a valuable resource for contacts for me as well as opening the door for me to speak at the Baptist Bible college.

Yesterday we were at the Hodera from 9:00 to 11:30 when I taught Basic Christianity lesson on the *Bible*. Thanks again to John Overton for his authorship of the Basic Christianity Course. And thanks to Dahlia for translating them. We enjoyed ime with praise songs, prayers and testimonies. We returned in the afternoon from 2:00 to 4:30 pm with lesson on *God and Angels* and more prayers, praise & testimonies. Last night we showed the movie *Something to Sing About*. We had seven men respond to the gospel call and John prayed with them to receive Christ as their Savior. I used a statement from the movie for my invitation “Do you want to continue in your situation OR do you want to experience God’s destination for your life?”

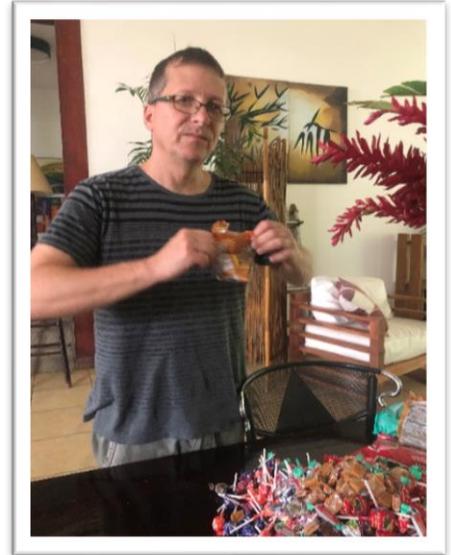
Although I had been with Pastor Bob in Nicaragua before this trip was different as all trips are. We stayed in the same city, San Marcos, and spent time ministering at the Hodera, drug and alcohol rehab center near the town and saw hearts and minds changed by the power of the gospel and the Word of God. In the evenings we showed them Christian movies which always influence the people staying there. I think the movies show them how Christians can deal with everyday problems of real life and perhaps most of them had not seen much of that.

Perhaps the highlight of the trip was the 13-year-old girl, Ingrid, who had been kicked out of her grandparents' house and had been on the streets of Managua before she wound up at the Hodera. When we first came, she was a little stand-offish and reluctant but by the end of the week she was all smiles after accepting the gospel truth that Jesus died for her and loved her. There were other conversions as well and Pastor Bob ended up baptizing thirteen people including Ingrid.

I was hesitant to agree to come on this trip because I badly injured my back over a year ago and didn't know how I would be able to travel. The first couple of days were painful and to top that off I got a sinus infection and had to stay in bed for two days but as God tells us in his Word, all things work together for our good. I spent the two days in bed reading the Bible. I am a preacher, so I study the scriptures all the time and teach them every week, but this was different. It was a special time God gave me where he revealed things about me that he didn't like and encouraged me that he was not through with me. I had been very depressed and disappointed in ministry for a while but in praying and reading through several books of the Bible I came away more hopeful and renewed than I have been in a long time. After that I began to feel better physically and was able to return to the Hodera with Bob and John and Wanda for the rest of the week.

I was encouraged also for Nicaragua because of all the signs of Christian activity in that country. There are Bible churches everywhere and the Christians there seem to be alive and zealous to see the Lord work in their country. Pastor Bob has a huge influence in Nicaragua and the Baptist pastors asked him to come back to teach them in September.

Every time I go with Bob, I see the hand of God in this ministry. The Lord is using Lost Sheep not only to seek out the lost sinners and proclaim the gospel to them but also to build up the churches. In the Bible the Apostle Paul (our great example of a missionary) does this exact same work—he preached the gospel of salvation to the lost but much of his time was spent building up the churches by teaching the theology of God's grace. This is how God is using Bob and Lost Sheep ministries. In every country not only is Bob busily evangelizing but he is also devoted to building up God's church in each country. This is a ministry that punches far above its weight and when we give to support Lost Sheep then God is multiplying our gifts far out of proportion to the support the ministry receives. Thanks to all who help make this possible.



John and Wanda Mattison's comments

We were privileged to go with Pastor Bob Gibson, Lost Sheep Ministries on this mission trip to Nicaragua. My husband John, Jimmy Stanfield and Pastor Bob made up our team of Four. What a fascinating country so full of color, energy, and contrasts.

Brightly colored Bougainville in full bloom tumbles over fences and up the sides of buildings. Cars driving alongside horse drawn wooden carts. But as fascinating as the surroundings were its people who remain in your heart and mind. They are so receptive to receiving the Christian tracts we handed them and would immediately start reading them.

We renewed old acquaintances like Pastor Maria Lopez in Managua where we were each to share a message. God opened new doors for Pastor Bob to share a teaching with the Pastors in Managua this fall.



We attended a Baptist church in San Marcos where nine people surrendered to go and tell.

We worked primarily at a drug rehab center called the Hodera. Pastor Bob has been here numerous times before. Here were forty-five men and four women. One a young girl of thirteen years of age.

While we were discussing our scheduling with the administrator, he shared their need for ten more beds for men waiting to be admitted. Between us we were able to provide that need and ten more will be able to enter the program. Over four thousand have graduated from here.

During the day we would minister, and Pastor Bob would teach. At night we would show an inspirational Christian movie. We had seventeen professions of faith including Ingrid, the thirteen-year-old girl.

We pray they will continue to be more than victorious in this battle against drugs and alcohol (Romans 8:37) remembering that the ultimate enemy is Satan.

We left with our bodies tired and our hearts full of love for the people and for God. We pray this will inspire us to continue to share our faith here at home.

It's impossible to write the events of each day and not be "drinking from my saucer cause my cup runneth over!"

Recommended Reading: *Let's Change Your School* by: John and Dot Overton. This book focuses on school(s) in your area because the Mosaics/Millennials (ages 13 through 29) are the future of Christianity and are poorly equipped to cope with the evil and temptations with which our culture surrounds them. Though seemingly unlimited funds are being spent, school shootings, bullying, easy access to tempting drugs and alcohol, perverted sex, and failure to build good and lasting relationships have too often become the norm.

Tax Deductible Donations to LSM: Lost Sheep Ministries is a 501(c) non-profit organization. Donations may be made to LSM, 2951 Marina Bay Drive, Suite 130-144, League City, TX 77573. We seek funds to travel, equip, and commission others to take the Gospel of Christ to all nations.

Note: All of our Newsletters and Power point discipleship presentations along with student manuals are available free from our web: www.lostsheepministries.com
Also, check out our website, equippingstudents.com.

