



Container Report: Waiting for Good News

By Ann Marie Zon

Because of the current disturbance in Nicaragua, containers have been held up in warehouses in the capital of Managua. The 11 containers that were sent are accounted for and all legal papers are in order. All that is needed is the government's nod to have them released.

Our containers are not the only ones waiting. Up to 100 containers of goods are also being held up from private hospitals and businesses.

Due to the backlog of containers that are already in Nicaragua, we have suspended sending any more containers weekly as we have in the past. We are storing all the packed and ready boxes on Transit Road just waiting for the "okay" to send more shipments.

Shipments won't happen until those containers already there are sent on for distribution.

We actually had to get another storage



The final box is loaded in one of the last containers to be shipped to Nicaragua. Shipments have been temporarily suspended.

container on the property to hold the overload of goods waiting to be shipped.

Thanks to John Wargo, Rick Darcy and Jerry Haas for procuring a container from the Verdi Company in Syracuse. They acted so quickly, generously and efficiently that we had the 40 foot high cube container here and in place within 10 days of telling them of our desperate need for storage for all the boxes that are ready to go.

We are blessed in so many ways:

- * having so many kindly donors;
- * having the packing and loading crew who come weekly to sort everything and ready it for shipment;
- * having others behind the scenes workers, insuring that the operation runs smoothly;
- * having those who do the paperwork and take care of the red tape needed and sent to at least six different offices;
- * having those who come to our rescue when the need is so evident.

THANK YOU!

Stitches Through Time Bring Joy to Babies, Moms

Whenever one looks for a person whose life embodies faithfulness to a commitment, one has only to look to Eleanor Scott. She is a quiet, unassuming person dedicated to a project that has touched the lives of countless others the past decades.

Every winter Mrs. Scott can be found seated at her sewing machine producing adorable, delicate and colorful flannel shirts for newborn infants along with an accompanying receiving blanket.

She has gone through hundreds of spools of thread, thousands of yards of material and countless rolls of ribbon in making her precious baby gifts.

For many years, Mrs. Scott has offered countless babies and their moms in Nicaragua's poorest areas something new and warm. This gift has delighted the recipients, especially since it came from so far away and from someone they do not know but whose efforts let them know that others care.

Mrs. Scott can be assured that all her efforts, every stitch, every attention to details and long hours at her sewing machine have made a tremendous difference in the lives of new moms who will remember the lady who helped their babies.



- Your comments and suggestions are welcome. Send to Nicaragua Mission Project, 10100 Transit Road, East Amherst, NY 14051.
- If you know someone who would like to receive a copy of "LA VIA," email info@projectnica.com and a copy of "LA VIA" will be sent or e-mailed to them.

Generosity of Students Makes Far Away Classrooms Better

Youngsters are capable of doing tremendous works when they are offered motivation and purpose. This has proved true for three schools in the area.

* **Williamsville Middle School's** students, families and staff, led by Debra Johnson and the fifth grade, fill one of the Nicaragua Mission Project trucks with clothes, toys, shoes, linens, sports equipment and household goods. Mrs. Johnson puts up signs, announces reminders, invites a speaker to explain the needs and why the participation by the student body is so important. The results are heart-warming particularly when the truck is so full that the door can barely be shut.



Some of the 4,000 T-shirts ready to load.



Loading the last box.

* **St. Gregory the Great School** has second graders with a real tradition to follow. For years, these students made an all-out effort to collect funds to purchase milk cows that will be given to mountain families whose children rarely, if ever, have milk. Over the years, more than 50 families have been given the prized possession of a milk cow.

For the past two years, under the guidance of second grade teacher Kaitlin Peters, the students made mini-prayer beads that are sold to other students, family members and friends. The sales from the colorful beads allow more families in Nicaragua to be surprised by a milk cow from these young students. The extra prayer beads are distributed to young and old in Nicaragua.



New prayer beads

* **Saint Mary's School** in Swornville keeps breaking yearly records for the thousands of T-shirts the students have collected. This year alone there were 4,000 and counting. What a tremendous success, one which truly reflects the eagerness of the principal Mary Jo Aiken, students, families and staff to outdo the number of T-shirts collected previously. Imagine how many men, women, and children in Nicaragua proudly wear the T-shirts that brighten a day and adds to a skimpy wardrobe.

Nicaragua in Uncertainty



The people of Nicaragua are fighting to have their country back — a free country, a country out of the hands of those who are corrupt, the selfish who sit in the ruling offices of the government.

Peaceful protests continue, met with unprovoked counter attacks of bullets and tear gas, resulting in death, injuries, arrests and incarceration in the worst of prisons.

Up until now, 400 have died, 2,000 treated and countless are in confinement. To avoid persecution and arrest, close to 23,000 young people have fled to Costa Rica — a generation of Nicaragua's youth fearing for their lives and futures. Only the Good Lord knows how many will return to their native soil.

The people are asking for free elections, a request that has been scorned, denied and ridiculed. So the struggle continues. Yet despite everything facing the protestors, they remain firm.



The decision of the protestors to not give up may someday result in living in a country they can call their own — a country that looks out for the good of all its citizens.

Keep the people of Nicaragua in your prayers.



Your Email Address Will Cut Costs, Add to Project Funds

Every newsletter sent by email saves more than a dollar in printing and mailing costs, particularly valuable when it comes to "La Via."

We thank the many readers who answered our invitation to send us their email addresses.

We invite you to join them in doing so.

Email addresses are kept confidential for the exclusive use for the newsletter.

Please help by sending your email address to info@projectnica.com

In the subject line, mention "Nicaragua email."

The savings translate into more funds for the poor in Nicaragua and an opportunity for you to forward the newsletter to others.

Friends from Fredonia Find Joy in Living ‘The Golden Rule’

For years, Rev. and Mrs. Rodney Hauck of Fredonia have given unselfish service for the sake of Nicaragua’s poor.

The Haucks are moving to a condominium home in Dunkirk. And although they will no longer be “hands on” workers, it is a joyful wish from the Nicaragua Mission Project that they find contentment and happiness in their move.

“Gracias” and more for the last 15 or more years that they have opened the doors to their garage on Center Street in Fredonia, allowing residents of the area to drop off donated goods. Every July, the Hauck home has been the collection site for bags and boxes of items to be shipped to the missions serving the poor in Nicaragua.



Joan and Rodney Hauck

Justice, together with its members and the folks from Fredonia and Dunkirk, gathered clothing and other items as well as monetary gifts in support of the ongoing efforts for the people in the countryside settlements of Nicaragua.

Saint Joseph Parish in Fredonia has joined the Haucks as a viable contributor of goods.

It’s because of individuals like Rodney and Joan, that projects for the sake of others are possible.

There is no way the Nicaragua Mission Project can truly express its admiration, and gratitude for so many years of a quiet and most effective way of reaching out to making a real difference. Their work allows so many lives to be touched.

May God’s blessings be many and often for an exceptional couple who have helped teach by example how to live the Golden Rule.

Rev. and Mrs. Hauck, avid leaders of the Center of Peace and

All Souls Day: Reverence for the Deceased

All Souls Day commemorated on Nov. 2 is observed with special respect and traditional customs in Nicaragua.

School is not in session. Most businesses close at noon since on this day entire families go to the local cemeteries to bring flowers and offer prayers. It’s also a time to clean and repaint the grave sites. When a family member dies, a wake is held at the house. People come to pay their respects and often stay for hours. It is their way of keeping the family company in their time of sorrow.

The next day, the coffin is carried to the cemetery followed by family and friends walking the entire way. Funeral processions sometimes take as long as an hour.

Since burial must take place so quickly after death, many cannot arrive on time for the funeral. For those who live away from town, a formal Mass is held nine days after the interment.

In Nicaragua, with hard land full of rock, most of the tombs are



A typical cemetery shows the colorful mausoleum-type graves, brightly painted, above ground in a simple mausoleum-type structure, usually made of cement, then painted a bright color. In places where there is traditional burial, graves are marked with simple crosses.

Journey of Hope Foundation is a not-for-profit foundation enacted under the Section 402 of the not-for-profit corporation law.

Its mission is to solicit and procure funding through donations, loans and grants for the promotion and support of indigent people, especially in Central America.

The Foundation at this time is looking toward helping the needy of **Nicaragua**. With the recent completion of the buildings at the Sinai Center, funding has returned to helping fund the 42 18-wheel containers that Ann Marie Zon sends each year. The more people learn of the hopes for the future of Nicaraguan poor, the more that future can be made brighter.

If you would like to help support the Foundation and its mission, go online to www.journeyofhopefoundation.org or send your donation with the form to the right, to: Journey of Hope Foundation, 200 River Road, North Tonawanda, NY 14120 or call 716-874-4074.



YES! I want to do my part to continue the work of the Nicaragua Mission Project. Enclosed is my tax-deductible gift. Make checks payable to: **Journey of Hope Foundation.**

Name _____

Address _____

City, State, Zip _____

Phone (_____) _____

E-mail _____

Amount enclosed _____

Holy Day Not Holiday

It's difficult to believe that the holiday season is upon us. The stores know it well.

Christmas decorations appeared weeks ago. Halloween has come and gone with more hoopla than most of us ever knew when we were children. Begging at the neighbors' houses and "soaping" a few windows just about made up that holiday.

Thanksgiving was once just waiting for Santa to appear. Those days are gone, overwhelmed by commercial interests. Thanksgiving still asks us to give thanks. But the big day is Christmas.

That's the day we have to make or break. Do we celebrate the Child's birth? Do we see the dawn of our salvation story therein? Do we make Christmas truly a religious feast for our home and our families?

That question must confront us.

We don't discontinue gift-giving or holiday parties but we have to put first things first. The religious side of this feast must always overshadow everything else that the world tells us is important.

The only thing that is important is that the feast recalls for us that God so loved the world that He came down into our midst to save us by showing us what he asks — to hear His word, to see His love. Beyond trees or cards or lights or gifts or decorations is the one all important fact: God sent His Son into our world to speak, to act like one of us. "See, this is how you do it. Here is what I ask. I'll show you My love so that you can show it to the world."

Let's make Christmas a true day of thanks for showing us His love. If we understand that, we know how to follow Him. May you have a joyous, faith-fitted Holy day!



Msgr. Richard Wetter

Schools Rule, Also Write and Color

(On Page 2, you read about three schools that have been generous with donations. This is another story to prove that "Schools Rule.")

Late June always is an amazing time when many schools collect the used supplies that their students have leftover at the end of the school year.

Boxes upon boxes of glue, crayons, pencils, pens, tablets and backpacks are gathered from students to be sent to their counterparts in the countryside schools in Nicaragua. What a boon this is for the youngsters and teachers there whose classrooms often lack these basic tools of learning.

Public and private school teachers and administrators from Depew, Lancaster, Williamsville and Cheektowaga ask the youngsters who are leaving for summer vacation to donate usable items for needy students in Nicaragua. The request is answered generously as students respond by donating school items that not only are still usable, but often with new products to help out.

These schools have been helping the youngsters in Nicaragua for years which says a great deal about principals, teachers and parents who are instilling the sense of sharing with others who have so much less.

Thanks to all who are making school days better for children in Nicaragua.



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www.journeyofhopefoundation.org

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