

Update: Tabernaculo Agua Viva #4 (Church of Living Water) In Poneloya

NICARAGUA -- Anabel Flores Paraes is the current "pastora" of this small church planted by Pastor Belcer in Poneloya, Nicaragua. Anabel's husband, Alejandro, was the pastor for approximately 4 years before he passed away in 2005. Anabel's connection to the people was so strong, that the community petitioned the Church to have Anabel stay on as the permanent pastor after his death.

Anabel is much more than a leader of this community evangelical church. As is the case with most pastors, their job description is as varied as the many personalities of their church body.



Anabel

A pastor, in this typical, very poor neighborhood is a spiritual guide, medical advisor, food pantry operator, financial advisor, and of course a valued friend. Her home is truly a place a refuge and safety for many people at any given time.

For those of you who have visited Poneloya, you know it is a beautiful town located on the Pacific Ocean, and you also know the depth of poverty in this community. Many families live day-to-day in tin shacks, on

less than \$100 per month. After our group visited in January 07, we were reminded of the commitment Anabel makes everyday to this church, and community. We saw her lead, teach, and comfort anyone in need while we were there...including us!

At our request, Anabel took a group of us to several of the homes in the neighborhood where the need for assistance was greatest. As we were visiting in the homes, Anabel's daughter, Darling, yelled to her from the road. She explained that a child was very sick a few house's away. Anabel dropped what she was doing and RAN down the street and into the backdoor of the house.

She knew the family, knew the boy had been sick for several days...and knew what to do. She brought the young boy with the fever to the church. There, she organized a plan to get the boy to the hospital in Leon, 20 miles away. He received treatment, fluids and was back the next day.



Anabel and the sick child.

I'm confident this type of "rescue" and many others take place routinely in Anabel's life.

Being called as a church pastor in Poneloya, Nicaragua is a position reserved for God's special people. Anabel is a special person (an angel). God has placed this brave, hard-working disciple in the perfect position for the many needs within His Church. Anabel is faithful to God and what He has called her to do; she is currently being financially assisted by an NRN group from central Indiana.

NRN is sending at least two teams to Poneloya in the next 6 months to help with construction and minister to the Church and community. In August, Jeff Cornwell will lead a group to construct a home for one of the needy families from the church in Poneloya. Jeff and others



Jeff Cornwell and friends.

have visited Poneloya many, many times and helped construct the original Church building. In January 08 another group will visit and continue to assist in construction as well as evangelical ministry.

There is a plan now to employ 4-6 people in Poneloya with the implementation of a fishing business. Funds are needed, and an effort is underway to deliver an outboard motor and skiff for the church. The church would manage the

function of the fishing business and our prayer is to have several deserving men in the community make good use of these resources to earn a living, and in return, help support the Church.

Last January a team from central Indiana added a bit of color to the Church by painting a mural for the congregation to enjoy and learn from. Here are a few pictures of "before, during and after" the challenging process... Thank you Sergio!



Top left: Blank wall before
Top right and bottom left: during
Bottom right: Sergio.

UPDATE: Tabernaculo Agua Viva #4 (con't)

Sergio Morales is a talented artist from the neighborhood around Oscars Cruz' church and Rey Soloman school. Ginny Campbell arranged for Sergio to travel with us and collaborate with Lisa Muench and Dan Yost on the Poneleya mural project. Working with Sergio was a blessing that we will never forget. We arrived with our "American" ideas about how the mural should look, Sergio made it possible for the paintings to talk to the body of the church. Sergio shared laughter, talent and tears with our entire group, what a blessing to have met him.

In all these things, I give thanks to God for His provision of people, resources, and success. I ask for your continued prayer and support of NRN and Poneleya specifically.

--by Jeff Muench



The Church



Community Photos

