

# Profile: The story of Gloria, from Poneloya



*Gloria*

NICARAGUA -- She was born on a small island that was very closed off from the rest of the world. She lived there until when an earthquake caused the total island to be flooded and the government of Nicaragua declared it unsafe for inhabitants. On this little island she "married" by the time she was 14 and had her first daughter at age 15. This was not an unusual circumstance on this little Island. She had a

Two years before this time, the "community leaders" of Poneloya had promised Gloria and 5 other families each a small plot of land. Gloria had put up a small "shack" made of rotten wood and rusted tin on her designated lot. It represented having something of her own. She asked her volunteer friend for financial assistance to pay an attorney to obtain a deed for this small plot of land. After more than a year of frustration and no progress, NRN asked a young lady who had recently earned a degree in law from a University in Leon to check out the situation. She learned that the attorney had not proceeded with the legal work, but had taken Gloria's money. This young attorney did not have a license to practice law in Leon, so there was only so much she could do to help Gloria. Gloria, feeling weak and helpless, decided to give up! The volunteer friend from NRN told Gloria he wanted her to fight for her property. To stand up was not easy for Gloria who is by nature reticent and fearful; but she decided to continue her efforts to obtain title to her promised piece of land with her rotten little shack.

In July, 2007 the "community leaders" told Gloria and the other five families that they would not agree to a deed for the plot of land, but they would give her another plot of land nearby. They added that if she

total of 4 children when she and her "husband", Andres, were forced to move off the island. They moved to the small fishing village, Poneloya, where he spends his days fishing. She became a housekeeper for a sick, but wealthy Nicaraguan woman. This woman owns a large house in Poneloya where Gloria, her husband, and her four children lived. But this lady also has a home in Leon, 1/2 hour away by bus, where she lives and which causes Gloria to have to spend most of her time away from her family.

Four years ago, she and Andres were officially married in the church by Pastor Belcer. Gloria is proud of this event and mentions it when talking of her marriage. Gloria received financial help to pay the legal fees and to have a small ceremony in the church from one of the volunteers of NRN who takes regular trips to Nicaragua and who describes himself as having made a small commitment to Gloria. His "small" commitment gives life and hope to Gloria and her family.

In the spring of 2007, Gloria became very ill with a cyst in her groin. She was unable to continue her duties taking care of the woman who is her employer and her landlady. When she explained to her employer that she was very ill and could not continue to take care of her, the lady's response was that Gloria and her family had to leave the house that they were living in and caring for in Poneloya. This meant that she and her family would be homeless. Fortunately, under the care of a doctor which she paid for with the financial resources of her volunteer, Gloria's health improved within a month. She continues to work for the same lady and her family remains in the house where they have lived for many years. Yet, Gloria now recognizes that she needs her own home for her family.



*Gloria's shack.*

did not take the offer, she would lose the first plot anyway. (They did not make this offer to the other 5 families, they simply lost out) This offer was acceptable to Gloria so with 10 days off in August, she took another 10 days vacation. With the help of her four children, she moved all the rotten wood and tin to the new location and began to reconstruct the shack. Gloria, who is thin, feminine, and not physically strong (she is unable to push a wheelbarrow full of sand) laughs and says, "I enjoy working like a man." She immediately began to pursue title to the new lot.

The "community leaders" then asked for all the legal documents to be turned over to so that they could convert her paper

**Continued on next page.**

God did an amazing thing in my heart this summer. I went to Nicaragua with a team of seventeen from my church in Carleton, Michigan. This was my first trip, and I can say with full confidence that it will not be my last.

I met a little girl, Juanita, whom I've been connected to for about three years, for the first time. My dad, who's been to Nicaragua several times, made a relationship with Juanita and her family on his very first trip. He was unable to go this time, and sent me in his place.

I had the opportunity to go with the pastor of our sister church in Chilamatillo and another woman with our group to Juanita's home. My parents had sent me with money for Juanita to go to the dentist. While we were sharing in her home, the friend with me said to Juanita, "Jerrica has studied Spanish in school for four years so she could come down here and talk to you." Juanita looked up at me with great big, beautiful, brown eyes and with amazement that I would do something like that for

her. She looked as if she was shocked that she mattered that much to me. With a tear rolling down her cheek, she embraced me with all she had.

Later that day I was thinking on that experience. I realized that I must have looked toward God with the very same look with which Juanita looked at me the very first time I realized that Jesus died for me. I was in amazement that God would do such a thing for me. I was shocked that I mattered that much to God.

Our team in on the trip had a joke, "What happens in Nicaragua, stays in Nicaragua." It was just something funny that kept coming up throughout the trip. Sorry, team, I can't do it. I can't leave what God did in me there. I must keep that attitude of amazement with me every day, every second. I must share what God has done with everyone I come in to contact with. It would not be fair to my family, friends, acquaintances, those in Nicaragua, me, or God to leave my experiences there. I will carry that experience with me everywhere.

-- by Jerrica Baxter

#### Gloria - continued.

work to the new location. Through NRN, Gloria asked her volunteer friend again for the financial assistance to pay an attorney to be involved in the obtaining of a deed for her new small lot. She did not want to give her paperwork to the "community leaders". Although the previous efforts had resulted in no benefit, and the volunteer was hesitant, he again decided to help her financially to pay an attorney, but he also helped her obtain an attorney through a business man that he knew. At this time we do not know what will happen, but we know that Gloria would have lost everything including her hope and determination had it not been for the volunteer standing in the gap over a two year period. All of this was coordinated through Pastor Belcer and NRN.

We will update you when there has been some further resolution



Gloria and her family, with NRN volunteer.

#### RECYCLE: A New Way To Give!

Bring all of your newspapers, magazines, catalogs, and junk mail (no cardboard) to the new recycle bin in the parking lot of Northview Christian Life Church at 5535 East 131st St. Carmel, IN.

By doing so you will be helping raise money to sponsor children in Nicaragua. This simple act of recycling could change a child's life. Any questions please contact Jill at [jjmcmamus@hotmail.com](mailto:jjmcmamus@hotmail.com)