

HOPE HELP HARMONY

Taking Back The Family

ZOOKEEPERS MINISTRIES

www.zookeepersministries.com

ZMI FAMILY MINISTRIES INTERNATIONAL

A Note from the Director 2014 EXPLOSION IN MINISTRY



As the founder and director of Zookeepers Ministries, I am thrilled to announce that God is active, alive,

and powerfully

at work among us! Our first change for 2014 was a new name and face. Zookeepers Ministries from its inception, we found it necessary to accommodate our international presence by changing our name to ZMI FAMILY MINISTRIES INTERNATIONAL. That, however, was only the beginning!

2014 started off with a bang as our Ministry Team gathered at The Cove, Billy Graham Training Center in Asheville, N.C. for our annual planning retreat.



ZMI Ministry Team at the Cove

We are very blessed to have a team of women whom God has called, working together in harmony for one purpose: to reach families for Christ and teach His principles for the family. God led and gave direction to us and now we are busy working to put His plan into action.

Next on the agenda was our mission trips to Nicaragua and Honduras, and most recently Brazil, where God did a mighty work among the people – both for the people there and for our team.



2014 Nicaragua Mission Team

For the first time ever we were able to work with entire families through new teams the Lord

raised up specifically for men, teen boys and girls, and children. By incorporating **The Nehemiah Project** into ministry to all family members, the stage was set to begin rebuilding the walls of protection God intended His principles to create. You'll be hearing much more about The Nehemiah Project, Part One, in our new series called **Taking Back the Family: God's Restoration Project**. Look for classes to begin this fall!

Many God stories abound from our mission! The women's conferences brought more women than ever before, many making decisions to fight for their family by learning and practicing God's principles in their lives. Many women, men, and children came to accept Christ as Lord.



The National Congress of Leaders was held in Mesaya, Nicaragua with over 200 in attendance!

Throughout the week, teachers Brenda and Beverly, challenged the women as Tom challenged approximately 100 Pastors plus other lay leaders to step up and



fight for their families and to incorporate **The Nehemiah Project** into their churches throughout the country.



Pastor Manuel & Odily Hernandez with the car that you gave!

Odily had been mugged 3 times traveling on public transportation. Now they have safe travels as they carry the Gospel throughout Nicaragua. Thank you for giving!

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FEMININE HYGIENE NO LONGER A PROBLEM IN SOLIDARIDAD, NICARAGUA

"...your body is a temple of the Holy Spirit who is in you..." 1 Corinthians 6:19



Team assembling over 850 hygiene kits.

By Traci Huff

On our recent trip to Nicaragua, Zookeepers expanded the scope of our ministry. Focusing on health promotion and disease prevention, nurses Traci Huff and Marilyn Pusey, along with Tanya Dickens, educated

and encouraged women to care for themselves and their children physically. With the help of donations from individuals and businesses, we were able to provide over 850 bags with hygiene essentials, including toothbrushes, toothpaste, soap, shampoo, and first aid items. Our teaching focused on the importance of clean water and good hygiene.

One of the most unique aspects of this ministry took place in the village of Solidaridad. Most of the women who live there do not have access to hygiene products that are needed monthly. To meet this need, the Lord opened

the door for Zookeepers to partner with a ministry in Michigan, "It's Our Mission. Period." This ministry hand-makes reusable feminine hygiene kits, and with the donations we received, we were able to provide 60 hygiene kits to 60 women and help to restore her dignity!



What is a feminine hygiene kit? The kit contains everything a woman would need each month, but it is reusable, discreet, and sanitary. The best part is that if they are cared for properly, they will last each woman 3 years! There were audible gasps, clapping, and even tears when they heard that news.

There is still a great need for more education and supplies. It is our prayer that we can continue to educate and encourage women to adopt healthy habits for themselves and for their children. Thank you from the bottom of our hearts to all of you that helped us in this new endeavor!



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"LET THE CHILDREN COME TO ME..."



By Rita Reid

We've always said, "Reach the Mom's, reach the kids", and that is exactly what happened with the 2014 Nicaragua Mission.

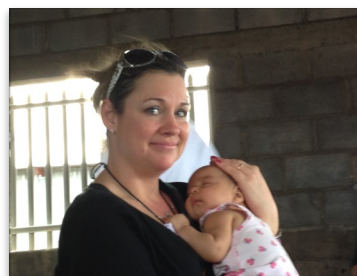
With Moms came the children in abundance, with Rita Reid and Jenny Cash leading the way.

2014 Team Nic Children's Ministry shared the Creation Story and Noah's Ark through reading, acting, singing, and games with hundreds of children over the course of a week. I saw God's hand at work as the children learned about Jesus, helped one another, worked as a team, and enthusiastically demonstrated their Bible knowledge. They put the Bible principles right to work when one little boy came to us crying and wanting

to go sit with his Mother. The other children encouraged him to stay, and soon he was found happily joining in the game time.

I was blessed to hear the children share how they could obey God by obeying their parents, even when they didn't see the reason why: just as Noah obeyed God by building the ark even though he'd never seen rain.

God used our team of varied teaching styles and personalities in harmony to bring hope and help to the lives of Nicaraguan Children. I think our team came expecting to bless the children and were instead blessed by them.



Matthew 19:14 says, "don't stop the children from coming to Jesus." We didn't and they came! God was glorified and we were all blessed! What an honor to serve the Lord through His most precious ones!



"For the Kingdom of Heaven belongs to those who are like these children." Matthew 19:14

TEEN GIRLS MINISTRY: PURITY OF HEART, MIND, & BODY



By **Sydni Kemper**

Along with three other amazing daughters of the King: Isabella, Bethany, and Meredith, I am beyond blessed to have served teenage girls on the Zookeeper's mission trip to Nicaragua.

Our call was to share our passion for purity through our personal experiences of falling in love with Jesus Christ. Our hope was for each girl we met to understand how deeply loved and cherished they are by their Creator and to discover a desire to live for Him. Throughout the week, I learned that girls everywhere are hungering for something more. We find that the hole in the depths of

our heart is one only God can fill.

The girls responded with such positivity, and many shared their hearts with us about who God is to them. They also shared practical ways of resisting temptations the devil throws their way.

I cannot begin to accurately express how much of an impact these girls made in my life as I saw a genuine love for others through them and an eagerness to know their Savior more. I am confident it was God's power within us, and because of His great love, He wants us to join in and realize just how much He cares for His children. After all, He is really good at making beauty from ashes.



*"To all who mourn in Israel,
He will give a crown of
beauty for ashes,
a joyous blessing instead of mourning..."
Isaiah 61:3*



"YOU CLOTHED ME..."



By **Meredith Bridges**

Thank you to everyone who donated clothing for our trip! We received everything from newborn to adult size clothing from all over the state and the country. Crates upon

crates were packed by gracious volunteers at Life on Lexington.

Some of the clothing was distributed at the Leaders Congress in Masaya, but the majority of the clothing was taken to Solidaridad the next day. Utilizing the new youth center, we laid out the clothes on the dirt floor according to size, and the people lined up. In order to ensure everyone went home with something, they were able to pick two items of their choice. They were so grateful and thankful

to be getting "new" clothes. Sadly, several children were there without shoes. ZMI was able to give money, donated by **YOU**, to provide 91 pairs of shoes for the children in Solidaridad. Thank you!



*Just one of the 91 children who received a new pair of shoes at a recent Family Outreach Day in Solidaridad, Nicaragua.
Thank You!*

WELCOME BACK DEBRA - TO A BRAND NEW OFFICE!



After a two-year sabbatical, Debra Spough is back in the saddle, taking the Administrative lead for ZMI.

She was the one keeping the rest of us straight on our trip to Nicaragua, and handling all the details of the mission. She's also the friendly voice you'll hear if you call our office next month! Welcome back Debra!

Praise to the Lord for the donation of a new ministry office provided by Bryson Industries, Inc. Their generous donation allows your financial gifts to head straight to the mission field instead of paying for office space. Thank you Bryson Industries, for your giving spirit and your heart for the Mission!

Maybe you have a unique donation as well, such as air miles or hotel points to help our mission teams get to the field. If so, please contact **Debra** at **debra@zookeepersministries.com**. Be sure to watch for our new office phone number and address coming soon.

**JOIN US ON MISSION
GO.....PRAY....GIVE**

MEN'S MINISTRY BEGINS WITH THE NEHEMIAH PROJECT AND BASEBALL MINISTRY FOR TEEN BOYS



THE EAGLES

"But those who trust in the Lord will find new strength.

They will soar high on wings like eagles."

Isaiah 40:31

Men's Ministry Begins:

Tom Lancaster:

"Men, It's Time to Break the Cycle."

By Brenda Lancaster and EJ Bridges

"Please bring teaching for men also! Our families desperately need it", said Pastor Manuel. Praise God, He has now answered that prayer.

"Honey," Tom said, "I support what you do because I know God has called you to it. In the same way, He has called me to kids ministry," With that in mind, he began work on a youth



mind.

In late 2013, while preparing a lesson for his SS class, the Lord used Jeremiah, chapter one, to call him to The Nehemiah Project for Men—beginning with Nicaragua. Sharing with approxi-

mately 100 pastors and church leaders, God began a work where men will join their wives in the call to take back their families for Christ. "It was powerful," said E.J. Bridges, Tom's partner in ministry for the week. "He laid it on the line that it's time for men to step up and lead their family!"

Stepping up to lead also began for E.J. He says, "It was such a privilege to go to Nicaragua and minister to a bunch of youth kids about the love of Christ! I thought I was going to teach kids about the game of baseball, then minister to them. But in the town of Masaya, I found out I was wrong. The boys in Masaya were already really good at baseball and already had established teams that were competing all over the country. They were actually teaching me how to play, so we shared the love of Christ with them, and gifted them with some much needed catchers equipment."

But Solidaridad was a different story! Having nothing, *The Eagles* were established, with Isaiah 40:31 as the theme verse. They were thrilled that donors sent gifts of hats, shirts, bats, gloves, and catchers equipment. "The kids were so grateful for the stuff!"

On Sunday, Tom & I were able to share with the team at the new church. I shared my testimony with them, and explained what

God had done in my life. I wanted the kids to see that the Lord could turn their lives around too, and give them hope. Tom challenged them with the Word of the Gospel and gave an invitation. Many received Christ that day, including one of the coaches!!

I loved getting to know the kids in the area and I think about them everyday. That was an experience I will never forget!" he says.



*Youth boys with hands raised
praying to receive Christ as their
Savior.*

**THANK YOU FOR PRAYING &
THANK YOU FOR GIVING!
GOD IS DOING POWERFUL THINGS
THROUGH YOUR GENEROSITY!**

THANK YOU FOR THE CHURCH AND YOUTH CENTER YOU BUILT IN SOLIDARIDAD!

By Brenda Lancaster

As our 2014 Nicaragua team boarded the plane, we couldn't help but think about how one year ago, when the neighborhood of ZMI teachers was wiped out in a hurricane, we asked them how we could help. "Please, just help us get a church in our new neighborhood of Solidaridad," was their response.

We brought that need to you, and you gave! Now, where the people were once hopeless, they gather several times each week offering praises to our mighty God, hear His Word preached, and take Bible Study classes that ZMI provides. In just one

year the church has quadrupled in size, with people overflowing into the front yard.

Many have come to Christ, families have been restored, and single moms are being helped with humanitarian aid.

The family pictured is just one example of all that the Lord is doing among them. While



working on the construction of the Youth Center, Pastor Manuel shared Christ with him, which brought both he and his wife to Jesus. Many other stories abound of what the Lord has done through you.



New church building



Interior of new youth building

HONDURAS OR BUST!

By Tanya Dickens

Bumping along pothole-filled roads, and braving a tension filled border crossing, we arrived an hour late to a crowd of well over 200 excited Zookeepers, all lifting the roof in praise and worship!

Some people were concerned about traveling to Honduras, but it was an opportunity I couldn't pass up.

Awestruck by the picturesque backdrop of fields, mountains, and volcanoes, humility and beauty filled that heat filled, cinder-blocked church. I witnessed cheers and celebration as each graduate received their Team scarf, Gideon Bible, and leadership certificate. It was amazing to see the dedication, excellence, and sacrifice of the host pastor and his wife to the ministry Brenda has entrusted to them.

After a night's sleep in a rustic hotel, we led our second Nehemiah Project conference, where I taught a workshop on health and hygiene. My most memorable moment was after teaching, a woman came up to me and said

that she was looking forward to my return next year and would be waiting for me. That definitely solidified my desire to return next year!

Both events were well attended, and the women were very receptive and hospitable.

After lunch with the host pastor and his family, our team headed back to Nicaragua through some intense wildfires, excited that we were successful in spreading God's word. We knew that He would bring us safely to our destination.



THE NEHEMIAH PROJECT: BRAZIL



Tom speaking to a packed house in Campinas, Brazil


By Brenda Lancaster

What an awesome Mission in Brazil! From our home away from home with a beautiful couple—to the men's and women's conferences, the Lord worked mightily among us! What a blessing to see the men jumping on board with **The Nehemiah Project** as Tom and I have worked as a team to encourage both men and women to work together to see their families restored. Like America, families are falling apart at an unprecedented rate.

However, God has the answers—the same ones that got us through very difficult times, are now doing to the same for families all over Brazil and Central America. God's principles never fail—He has the answers! During our time there, we saw people come to Christ, decide against divorce, determine to never quit, and commit to learn, practice, and teach His principles for the family to others. The multiplication process has already taken control here through the **Taking Back the Family** book for women. Now **The Nehemiah Project** is also in full swing. Tom and I praise God for what He is doing in Brazil!



THANK YOU FOR YOUR SUPPORT!!



ZMI Family Ministries International

P.O. Box 1111

Jamestown, NC 27282

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Taking Back The Family

ZOOKEEPERS MINISTRIES



www.zookeepersministries.com

Zookeepers Ministries is a non-denominational, non-profit, 501(c)3 Christian ministry dedicated to fulfilling the Great Commission. Our mission is to help families around the globe find peace in their hearts and harmony in their homes through a personal relationship with Jesus Christ. Simply stated, our mission is "To bring Hope, Help, and Harmony to Women's Hearts and Homes" wherever they may be.

With ***Taking Back the Family*** as our theme, and ***The Nehemiah Project*** as our vehicle, we are dedicated to being a support system for women, men, and their families. Support is offered through discipleship education and mentoring resources such as books, Bible studies, DVD's, free daily devotionals, conferences, retreats, speaking events, and international mission trips.

Through our International Missions division, and as God has led, we are now serving in Brazil, Nicaragua, Honduras, Costa Rica, Kenya, and the Dominican Republic. With the help of sponsors, we hold conferences for families and train locals to multiply and lead mentoring groups who in turn are taught God's principles for the home and family. Teaching resources are provided in their local languages, regardless of their ability to pay. We place great emphasis on training local leaders to continue the ministry throughout the year. As a result, thousands have been reached, and many marriages and families have been restored.

In 2013 we were blessed to include a church building project, and in 2014 a Youth Center, in a poverty stricken area of Nicaragua. To further our reach and further our investment in the community, humanitarian aid became part of our ministry.

We invite you to join us on mission! **GO—PRAY—GIVE.** Everyone can have a part! For more information go to our website and click on **Mission Projects**.

DONATIONS MAY BE MADE Online at www.zookeepersministries.com - or by mailing to: Zookeepers Ministries, P.O. Box 1111, Jamestown, N.C. 27282

We invite you to join us in this mission by sponsoring women and/or churches with the tools necessary to experience life change through a relationship with Jesus Christ and His message and plan for families.