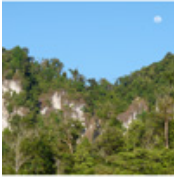


June 2009



Dear Friends and Family,



At the end of April I was once again in the position of hiring a new staff member for the sports center. Last November I had helped in the hiring of our librarian, Rosmery. And now we were looking to hire someone to run the computer lab. With only two applicants for the job, the interview process was not too hard. Thomas was willing to do a technical interview to see how much they each knew so the decision was not difficult. We hired Josue (who is Raquel's brother from Dios con Nosotros, for those who know her), and so far things at the computer lab are going great! Josue has started a number of different computer classes, most of which are focused on the basic level. Since opening the library and the computer lab and hiring local Nicaraguans, there seems to be a whole new crowd of youth and children that come by the sports center. I suppose it's all those kids that are not exactly interested in basketball or soccer, but bring out the books and computers - now you're talking!



Life here at the sports center has been quite tranquil lately since we have not had any teams since the middle of March. However, Halle has been working very hard to finish the floor of our covered basketball court. When I was available, I was the photographer taking pictures of the guys smoothing out the concrete in the forms. Another day of photographing took place when there was decides that we should fix the pothole up the road! Now the concrete has all been poured, and the youth have already started playing indoor soccer. Once we get the basketball hoops up and paint the court, then it will be ready for basketball which will be great since the rainy season is just around the corner. Ideally, we will be putting up lights so that we can do evening activities especially youth group even when it rains. The youth continue to ask when the next youth night is. We have had two youth nights in the past month and continue to have a great turnout. I have even been impressed at the number of girls that are now coming.



Thomas continues to befriend many of the youth and families here in the neighborhood. A part of me believes that he is better at this than me just because he is more of an extrovert than I am, but yet I can't help feeling that his being Nicaraguan just helps in getting to know the families who live around us. He also continues to coach a soccer team and has recently started his own league here at the sports center. In the evenings it is very common to find Samantha out with her "Papi" at the sports center while I am going for a run or making dinner. She is very content to hang out with a number of the guys from Thomas' soccer team or with Rosmery in the library.



When it is just the two of us at the house, Samantha is also content to hang out with our three Rottweilers. She knows their names and loves to stand on the porch yelling to them. Just the other day she managed for the first time to open their dog run while they were all in it and get inside with them. The dog run is good sized but still, imagine a 20-month old standing in a fenced-in area with three large Rottweilers! I wish I had taken a picture.



We are very thankful for your prayers and support. We would appreciate prayer at this time for our financial support. We know that God provides, and we continue to trust in Him.



Seeking Him for life,



Amanda y Thomas Gutierrez

Eastside Development (formerly NEO Foundation)

PO Box 301471 Portland, OR 97294

Email: amanda@amandaythomas.com For more info, please check: www.amandaythomas.com