

Dear Friends and Family,

May God's great love for the world be so real to you this Christmas season! My kids love this time of year. They enjoy decorating the house, finishing the semester and enjoying a break from school, having all the cousins over to play and bake cookies and of course listening to a variety of Christmas songs. There is so much about this time of year that is special - the most important being why we celebrate it at all - Jesus really is the reason for this season. And our prayer for our family and for yours is that you will experience Jesus in a new way this December.

Sitting down to write this letter always seems like an impossible task, and I apologize for not being better at staying in touch. Our kids are now in preschool, 1st, 4th, 7th and 9th grade and just trying to stay on top of their sports and extracurricular activities plus driving them to hang out with friends, not to mention the wide range of homework assignments can often feel like a full-time job. I love all the different stages they are in with their learning and growing, but it definitely has its challenges too. Overall, we as a family have had a good year. We enjoyed some time in the US this past summer with my family and got to see a number of friends and family on the East Coast. We also had a surprise visit from Halle and Kathy August, our good friends and previous partners in ministry.

The scholarship program continues to run well again this year. In January we packed up and gave out 833 bags of school supplies. This year there are 48 university students receiving scholarships, 24 primary and high school students receiving scholarships and 5 students studying English or attending a teacher school. Ana Jancy is a young gal whom I met years ago when we were still running the sports center. She was always so sweet and helpful, I and I remember thinking, "I hope she decides to go to college after high school and that I can offer her a scholarship." She has now been studying at Universidad Central de Nicaragua for the last 4 years and will take her final course next semester in order to graduate with a degree in Public Accounting. Some of my scholarshiped students are better than others at communicating with me. Ana Jancy has been faithful in sending me her grades and updates through the years, and she has always been very grateful to all those who give to make this opportunity for her to study possible. So THANK YOU from 910 students and their families for continuing to help provide school supplies and a chance to study at the college level!

Since August I have become involved in a number of different volunteer activities. First, I joined the board of the three Nicaragua Christian Academics. Second, I volunteered to coach the high school girls basketball team starting in February 2023, but in order to do that I had to take a CPR refresher course. I also helped run the upper elementary basketball training program. Third, I began teaching a sewing class to a group of five women on Wednesday mornings. This has been one of my favorite activities this year, and I have enjoyed seeing the excitement the women have in learning to sew new projects. And fourth, I helped teach a three-week sewing class to a group of high school girls at NCA. All of these new opportunities have definitely kept me busy, and I have enjoyed being able to serve in these ways.

Last year I asked for some donations to buy a couple of sewing machines. Thank you to those who gave! I was able to give away three machines last year. And I still have two more that I am waiting to find the right recipient. This year if you would like to give to the sewing ministry, it would be used to buy fabric and other supplies for the sewing class and other sewing ministries that I would love to support. The scholarship program can always use extra funding to provide as many scholarships and school supply bags as possible. Thank you for considering a gift to either of these areas of ministry!

As we draw closer to Christmas, I am reminded of how Jesus came to this world as a baby to give us hope for a better relationship with God and a more abundant life. May you feel that hope this Christmas season, and may you share that hope with those around you!

Merry Christmas from Nicaragua,
Thomas, Amanda, Samantha, Anthony, Nicole, Sofia and Alexander Gutierrez



Kingdom Point International

PO Box 269 Somers, MT 59932

Email: amandaythomas@gmail.com