

VIDA JOVEN NICARAGUA

SUMMER 2011

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HOLMAN MENDOZA APPOINTED TEAM LEADER

A dream has come true. Holman Mendoza has been appointed to be the new Nicaraguan team leader. As team leader, Holman will be directing all aspects of the ministry including ministry to kids, camping, service and learning teams, and all aspects of funding and administration.

Holman grew up in Esteli and has been involved in Vida Joven since 1996. He has a degree in Agricultural Engineering from the University of Esteli and has been working with Vida Joven since he graduated from college. He is an extraordinarily gifted man, he has a passion for Christ and for seeing kids lives changed by the gospel.

Holman writes this about his vision for the ministry in the next five years:

- Focus on discipling leaders
- Begin 3 new areas (Masaya, Sebaco, ?)
- Develop camp to a maximum of 350 people
- Strengthen the community among the leadership team.

We are delighted to have Holman as our team leader!

Kevin Suwyn, Regional Director of Central America



Kevin Suwyn is passing the baton to Holman, the new leader of the team. The baton was given to Holman who had other holding the baton with him, symbolizing a team model of leadership.



Holman and his wife Karelia with their two children, Evone and Gabriel

Service and Learning Teams

This year we will host 24 Service and Learning Teams, a total of 425 people at La Finca, Managua, Esteli, Granada, Chinandega, Jinotega and Matagalpa. We have 9 new teams visiting us this year and many old friends as well.

Usually our teams come to La Finca during their first trips to Nicaragua. After those first few years, many teams are beginning to migrate away from La Finca to visit and perhaps, adopt, a ministry area. First Pres Deland has adopted Esteli. First Presbyterian Mount Holly has adopted Granada. First Presbyterian Church of Norfolk has adopted Jinotega. And there are others in various stages of adoption. This is an exciting development to see churches joining our leaders in direct ministry.

You may notice our change in language. We have begun calling our teams "Service and Learning Teams". This reflects a desire to state more clearly what happens during a week here in Nicaragua. "Service" describes much of the work that goes on during the week, be it in La Finca (our camp) or in a local city. "Learning" is what goes on as we try to understand our Nicaraguan host culture, and to begin to see our own North American culture through fresh eyes of faith. We hope that our "Service and Learning" teams will return to their local churches and invite their fellow congregants into a richer and more robust understanding of what it means to be a world disciple.



Some of the team from Anastasia are enjoying the closing celebration put on by the leaders of Esteli

VIDA JOVEN QUICK FACT

Did you know that La Finca has beds for 181 persons. The problem is that we routinely have camps that have 225 people or more. This means that we have Nicaraguan kids sleeping outside in tents, and all over the floor of the dorms.





Douglas Bajorge



Saboni Rizo



Rosa Maritza Hernandez
and Omar Picado

WE ARE ALSO WORKING IN OTHER COUNTRIES

Did you know that Young Life Nicaragua is also involved in resourcing and consulting other Young Life areas in Central American? Nicaragua has been blessed, and now they seek to bless the ministry of Young Life in neighboring countries. Here is what is happening:

Douglas Bajorge is traveling one week each month to Panama to help Thelma Fernandez and her team establish Vida Joven there. Douglas, one of our more experienced leaders in Vida Joven, is taking what he has learned over many years to help the Panama team develop strong leadership and healthy clubs. Two Panamanian leaders will come to our New Kids camp this July to observe how we do camp in Nicaragua.

Saboni Rizo has been traveling along with Holman and Kevin Suwyn to help establish Vida Joven in El Salvador. Saboni is serving as a consultant to Salvadorian leader Enrique Martinez in the neighborhood of Apopa, a very dangerous, gang infected barrio. 10 kids from El Salvador will be joining us for our July new kids camp here in Nicaragua.

And Rosa Maritza Hernandez is working with Honduras to help establish Young Life there. She travels once a month to the Flor del Campo neighborhood where Geovanny Reyes lives. Rosa takes other Nicaraguans and trains them as well as Hondurans in discipleship and leadership development. We have been working with Honduras for many years, helping Giovanni and his leadership team take the ministry to new levels



Have you seen the beauty of a coffee plant in full flower? Each flower will be a bean, and so we are anticipating a grand harvest this year.

Did you know you can purchase a 4 oz bag of coffee as a gift for a friend or colleague? You can purchase our gift bags at www.beyondbeanscoffee.com





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INVESTING IN LIVES

Continuing to be a part of students' lives is what Vida Joven is about. We encourage you to remain an active part of this ministry! Here are two ways you can continue to be involved here in Nicaragua:

PRAYING

Keep up to date on Vida Joven by visiting nicaragua.younglife.org.

PARTNERING

Give online:

giving.younglife.org
designate to area X306

Give by mail:

Young Life
P.O. Box 520
Colorado Springs, CO 80901

Gifts are tax-deductible if made payable to Young Life with X306 in the memo line.

LA FINCA MASTER PLAN

This year, Dave Carlson, head of Young Life International Camping has visited us twice. Dave is helping us make plans for our future. Jeff Greenway and his team are excited to be developing a La Finca Master plan that will include renovated dorms, a larger dining room, a new kitchen and new staff and work crew housing. We are excited to increase the number of beds in our camp in order to invite more Nicaraguan kids to camp.



FIND OUT MORE

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