



Pownall's Progress August, 2010



Dear Family and Friends,

I am sorry that it has been so long since we have written an update. It seems the older you are the busier you are and the less time you have. We have been very busy this year at Equip and continue to grow.

We have had a very fruitful year, and one of our highlights was helping our church (Biltmore Baptist) start Awana. Mimi and I (mainly Mimi) started Awana at First Baptist of Indian Rocks many years ago with just eight kids. When Awana started at Biltmore, there were 400 kids the first night, and over the course of that first year we had 795 kids attend. The highlight for Ron was, of the nine children regularly attending Sparks in his group, six came to a personal faith in Christ and were baptized.

Another thrill, as one of the administrators at Equip, is being required to read our missionaries quarterly reports, and this is an excerpt from Ben Okello, a native Kenyan serving in Kenya. "Last quarter was our busiest time. We managed to reach 150 people with the word of God and baptized them in the river. We witnessed the care of God while in the river because during the baptism three crocodiles emerged. They scared us a lot, but God helped us from their attack."

In July I had the privilege of traveling to Managua, Nicaragua, to visit and inspect the projects of Equip missionary Henry Vargas. Henry built and runs a Christian school for 325 children up through grade 9. I was most impressed with the work he was doing and the impact in their lives. I am always saddened when I see the conditions children in other parts of the world are forced to endure. We in America are truly blessed.



School in Nicaragua

As I said in the first paragraph, we continue to grow, most of our classes are full, and because of our housing accommodations, we cannot run our classes year round. Well, that is about to change with the construction of a dormitory. Up to now our students (115 missionaries trained year-to-date) have lived in basically garden sheds set up in the woods with composting toilets. These sheds were in need of major repair or replacing, and because of current building codes, we could not modify them. The new dorm has to be built to current building codes, including the installation of a sprinkler system which adds around \$25,000.00 to the cost. Equip has most of the money in hand but is a little short and will only complete to the point we have funds to pay for it.



We are soliciting donations to complete it, so even if you can only donate the cost of one concrete block or a two by four, that would be a big help. We are also adding staff as recently brought on by the board a VP of Training (Dr. Larry Litke) and a VP of Missions (Dr. Harry Porter), and we have four missionaries/families preparing to leave for the field.

A couple of items you can be in prayer about is that the end of August, first of September our oldest son, Ronnie, will be on a mission trip to Haiti with the Southern Baptist disaster team working on earthquake relief. On September 8th Mimi and I will be coordinating an outreach meal for workers at the WNC Mountain State Fair. We have done this for the past several years and usually feed around 150, many of whom are close to homeless. Usually around 8-10 people come to a personal relationship with Jesus Christ as a result this outreach. Then, at the end of the month Biltmore Baptist Church has its Global Impact Celebration of which we will be a part.

We want to thank you for your continued prayers and financial support. It is hard to believe that we have been here serving at Equip for 14 years.

In His Love,
Ron & Mimi

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