



Looking back to look ahead

MISSIONARY LETTER

March 2015

Alina Saucedo & Michael Keyse

United Methodist Church Missionary and Volunteer

For surely I know the plans I have for you, says the Lord, plan for welfare and not for harm, to give you a future with hope. (Jeremiah 29:11)

Dear friends, brothers and sisters:

Greetings from Nicaragua in Central America!

We have been blessed with your presence: birthday's cards and emails, contact, skype calls, covenant support, offerings specially prayers! We are glad to hear you were including us in your prayers. Be this the time God finds you blessed!

This is Alina Saucedo and Michael Keyse, UMC Missionary and UMC volunteer who have been working now for 4 years with Methodist Churches and projects in 11 countries in the region of Central America, Caribbean and Mexico. Thanks to your prayers and support we have not walked alone these years but with all of you!

So, you want to find out what did you help us do?

1. **We were able to see God's creation:** Our eyes have seen so many amazing creations, birds of all colors, mountains green and gray... volcanos, smalls ones, huge ones, quite ones but also the smoky ones. Did you know there is a line of Volcanos in Central America? We had traveled a lot, plane if available, some by car, by bus to reach the churches or project to visit; nicely paved roads or quite dusty and lots of stones, some flat, others are quite hilly. We can assure God had made our world wonderful of colors, shapes and landscapes.
2. **We were able to find God's people:** We found them! Some examples:
 - Building dry composting latrines in areas where there is no water as part of the Health Community Workers training in Tlancualpican, Mexico.



Figure 1: UMC Volunteer Michael Keyse left, Training how to build a composting latrine Health Promoters Course, Mexico

- Preparing workshops for 4 different countries to train new pastors, who travel over 14 hours in bus to gather in Ahuachapan, El Salvador. They gather next time in May 2015, men and women, as young as 19 to 65 years old!
- Carrying cement blocks and construction materials in their shoulder and using tree branches to cross to the other side of a river to build the house for a family in the jungle of Panama.
- We saw them going up stairs with a walker to get to office to prepare voucher, get money ready as well expenses report for projects to train in agriculture, housing for families and schools in Port au Prince, Haiti as after earthquake recovery program.
- We found them in La Havana, Cuba, worshipping God with amazing voices, music and dances inside a church just repaired after a tropical storm and hurricane damage.

3. We were able to work with His people:

Alina have been training in stewardships and accountability to several national treasurers,



accountants and project finance managers in the region in over 29 church offices and projects in different countries and traveling around 10-15 days every month. Receiving church offerings to make blessings happen takes a lot of prayers, assessments, training and hard work.

Figure 2: Global UMC Regional Auditors Training. Lef to right: Dakin Cook, RA South America, Dominic Detoh RA Africa, Alina Saucedo RA Central America, Caribbean & Mexico, David Guinkpa RA Africa, Sunil Jacob RAAsia

Mike have been volunteering in different church projects and doing different type of work like damming a river to install waterwheel system in the project Give Ye them to Eat in Mexico or helping to build houses in community programs in the Ngabe indigenous areas in Panama, but also painting walls in the Orphanage Home in Costa Rica and helping to repair churches in Cuba.

We did arrive home exhausted but truly joyful and content to contribute and help in the building of the Kingdom of God. Yes, let's look back to look ahead!

Thank you to each one of you for helping us be part of God's work around the world!

Our work is not finished, this is why we want to announce at this time that we have been reassigned as missionaries to serve in Managua, Nicaragua. God has called to continue serving and work with the project **Women and Community Association**, a countryside ecumenical organization of women.

God calls, we go! Will you be joining us?

Please pray for us, as we complete the transition. News soon!

Peace and grace,



Alina Saucedo & Michael Keyse

Missionary Code #15168Z

**General Board of Global Ministries of the
United Methodist Church**

www.umcmision.org



The **Women and Community Association (W&C)** facilitates community-based health and development with women, youth and children in this impoverished region of Nicaragua. W&C offers integral health and education programs focusing on prevention of violence and promotion of human rights, education, reproductive health, natural medicine, alternative nutrition and economic development. The women's clinic promotes women's health and family planning, prevention of cervical cancer and sexually transmitted illnesses. Their legal aid office assists abused women and youth. W&C also provides study scholarships for impoverished village youth and teachers and loans for women and women's groups for economic development projects. W&C is an authorized project of the United Methodist Church. **Advance #13285A**

