



UCC STUDENT NEWS

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Nicaragua Report

Saying that things have been a whirlwind since Spring Break would be a massive understatement. In that time we have been to Nicaragua, worked with Mision Para Cristo to make 20,000 (actually 19,721, but who's counting) meals to be sent to Haiti, and have had an area wide retreat. For this newsletter I wanted to focus on our work with Mision Para Cristo in Nicaragua.

On the morning of March 9th, 14 of us (Chris and Sarah Elkins, Jon Page, Duncan Culbert, Brooke Rebstock, Tori and Gracie Cox, Bryan, Susan, Colton, and Lynzie Hackett, and Kaylee, Carson, and I) got in a van to catch a plane in Dallas. We had the privilege of worshipping and working with the churches in Jinotega, Nicaragua. Mision Para Cristo, the organization we work with, supports and encourages dozens of churches in that area. We spent our days making bricks for building projects, laying groundwork for a new fence to be built around one of the schools/churches (the building serves as both), conducted vbs type activities within the schools, and worked with their medical clinic. One of the things I love about Mision Para Cristo is that they will work with each group to use their strengths. We have two girls (Brooke Rebstock and Gracie Cox) that have received certifications in nursing and Tori Cox has been a dental hygienist, and they were given a couple of days to work with the clinic there and help the people of

Jinotega. A typical day in Nicaragua consists of getting up for breakfast, typically a variant of breakfast tacos. While waiting for breakfast to get ready we make our lunches. This is either ham and cheese or pb&j sandwiches (as many as we want), a bag of chips, and a package of cookies. Then there is a devotional with the entire MPC staff (about 80) before going to our work sites, which we signed up for the night before. If you want to do manual labor or work with kids the entire week, you can do that. After our work day, we typically get back to the mission about 4 and have time to go to the local coffee shop before dinner. We concluded the day with dinner (the food is excellent!) and a devotional reflecting on the day. This has become one of my favorite parts because the group is going in different directions and it gives us an opportunity to share what the other work sites were like. But honestly I think most would say that the work was secondary to the people that we met. It is always incredible to me the connections I make with believers that we can't communicate very well. The Nicaraguans It is impossible to give a complete account of our trip, but hopefully the photos at the end of the newsletter gives some insight. I highly encourage you to give some thought in going with the next group, but want to extend a thank you to everyone who supported this trip through prayer, encouragement, and financial support. Have a great weekend and I'll see you Sunday!

STUDENT EDUCATION

Sunday Morning JH & HS

JH and HS will be going through Romans on Sunday morning. We will spend this week discussing **Romans 8**. Andrew Monk and I will be teaching the HS. Chris E will be teaching the JH.

Wednesday Night Huddles

We have spent this semester exploring names of God and Jesus and are now focusing on what we are called in Scripture. This week our focus will be on what it means to be a **Royal Priesthood**.

This Week

April 22 - Monday Night Devo - HS

We will have our Monday Night Devo at Palace this week at 7 pm. I will open a tab at the register and pay for your coffee at the devo. Tell them you are with University and come discuss John 17 with us!

April 23 - Guy's Devo - JH & HS Guys

If the weather allows we will have our Guy's Devo at the fire pit in our park Tuesday night at 7 pm. We will move to the Fellowship Hall if needed.

April 24 - Guy's Devo - JH & HS Guys

If the weather allows we will have our Guy's Devo at the fire pit in our park Tuesday night at 7 pm. We will move to the Fellowship Hall if needed.

Further Out

May 1 - 5th/6th Grade Hangout

I'll pick up students from CIS (at the flag pole) and bring them to the church for games, a devotional, and a meal. There will be time set aside for homework if needed. This would be a great opportunity to invite friends if you have a child in this grade. You can sign your child up [here](#).

May 18, 19 - Senior Weekend

This semester has flown by and we will have the privilege of honoring our seniors in a few weeks. We do a banquet to honor the seniors and their parents, and then will present the students with a Bible Sunday morning and bless them as they prepare for college. Our seniors are Gracie Cox, Cory Criswell, Duncan Culbert, Bryanna Miller, Jacob Quiroz, Brooke Rebstock, and Trace Wilson and we will have a newsletter dedicated to them in a couple of weeks.

UCC STUDENTS IN NICARAGUA!

Below are photos of us at work in various capacities in Nicaragua. Our ladies went to work with Casa Materna (top left), a clinic for pregnant women to go in their last trimester to stay at while they wait to go to the hospital to deliver the baby. Our ladies pamper them during their stay. Another work we participated in was the Mobile Library. Their schools don't have libraries so the mission brings books and reads to the kids. They also do VBS style songs with the kids and play games. Gracie, Brooke, and Tori got to work with the missions medical clinic. Brooke and Gracie got to extract maggots from patient's legs. You should ask them it! The men spent most of our days making blocks for the mission. Most of the houses use tarps as the siding of their house, so it is a huge blessing to their community when the church donates their bricks to build a wall.



5PM 5PM 5PM
UNICA MEDICA CRISTIANA
 ATENCION LUNES A VIERNES
 10:00 PM Y 02:00 PM A 04:30 PM



UCC WORKING WITH NICARAGUA

We had a very long day traveling on both ends of the trip. I was very proud of the group in having a good attitude because I knew they were tired. The trip wasn't all work. We got to experience some of the attractions in Nicaragua on our way to Jinotega. This included ziplining, going to a beautiful botanical garden, and visiting the market. When time allowed in the evenings we would go to a local coffee shop. I was able to buy a frappuccino and four pieces of cake (for our translator, Kaylee, Carson, and I) for \$8! We also found that a house across the street from where we were making blocks was selling 1/2 liter pure cane cokes in ice cold glass bottles for 40 cents a piece. I gladly bought a round for our crew and the Nicaraguans we were working with. I was also pleased that we were able to bring a little bit of our work home with us and get the church involved. We had over 80 individuals spend a Saturday afternoon at the building and make just under 20,000 meals going to Haiti! These pictures don't tell the whole story. Please talk to someone who went!



Summer Schedule

The summer is a busy time for everyone. Here are the big events that we have planned for this summer, along with the cost for those trips. You can click the event name to go to the sign up form **Remember there will be two dates and prices based on if you sign up and pay (or make arrangements to pay) before the Early Bird deadline.** If the cost will keep your child from being with us, please let me know.

May 27th - [Summer Kickoff Cookout](#)

We will kickoff our summer with a cookout on Memorial Day at 6 pm! This will be a time to hang out, play games, and eat good food while also giving the interns and I an opportunity to share our plan for the summer. **We want the entire family to join us** for this so please include that in the numbers so we know how many to expect.

June 6th - [JH Mystery Trip](#) - \$70 (by June 5th)/\$50 (by May 27th)

For our mystery trip, we load up the incoming 7th graders to freshman in vans early in the morning and spend the day somewhere within four hours of here. I try to pick a place or activity that may be new for the students and we will return late that night. **I would love to have at least three other adults accompany me on the trip.**

June 9-13th - [HS Mission Arlington](#) - \$150 (by May 27th)/\$130 (by May 12th)

Students run a VBS in apartment complexes in the area as well as helping the Mission in sorting clothes, distributing food, and other ministries the Mission is involved in. The Mission believes it is very important that this is student led (and I have witnessed this to be true). **I would love to have at least three other adults accompany me on the trip**, they will mainly be there for supervision and driving vans. We will be working Monday-WEDNESDAY and will do something fun on THURSDAY before coming home. **(We are having to come home a day earlier than most years so I can officiate a wedding.)**

June 17-19th - [JH Missions in Amarillo](#) - \$40 (by May 27th)/\$20 (by May 12th)

Missions in Amarillo (MIA) may be one of my favorite things that we do over the summer. This is a great way to expose our students to ministries in our own backyard. This is for incoming 6th grade-freshman. We will end up performing a variety of service projects in Amarillo, some of what we can do may be limited but I think we proved over Spring Break that there is plenty of work to be done in our area.. I do not know what housing will exactly look like, but at this time I am planning to **be in need of host homes to house the kids over this week.**

June 26th-July 2nd, July 17th-23rd - Camp Blue Haven

Traditionally the majority of our students have gone to 5th session (July 17th-23rd) of Camp Blue Haven, but we have had a growing number attend 3rd session (June 26th-July 2nd). Enough so that **Bryan and Susan Hackett will be taking a van with them to 3rd session.** Look for sign ups or ask us if you need a ride. We will be taking three vans to 5th session.

July 31-August 2nd - [End of Summer Retreat](#) - \$95 (by July 23rd)/\$75 (by July 9th)

We have been closing out our summer with a retreat to give our interns a final project. It has turned into a great way to wrap up the summer and to send them off!