

REBECCA FITZGERALD AIM REPORT – June 2017

I arrived in Managua Nicaragua the afternoon of June 1st. I was warmly welcomed by the Longs, and what I now believe was the entire mosquito population of the area. Their bites resulted in a quick visit to the dermatologist and some meds, but no illnesses. (Gloria a Dios!)

After arriving I had a day of rest then was immediately put to work on that Saturday afternoon at a seminar for



Sunday School teachers at Centro Vida church in Managua. I was assaulted by the heat both outside and inside the church. The building is not air-conditioned, and windows at the back of the church along with ceiling fans did not do much to bring relief. But, the training was a blessing to all who attended. I helped with activities for the Power Hour demonstration. The teachers left with flannel boards that they had made for their classrooms along with many materials and ideas for enhancing their Sunday School program. The next day was a huge children's event with 320 children in attendance. By the end of the service 16 children had received the Holy Ghost!

After a couple of days to recover from the weekend, Sister Long and I began preparation for the next Sunday School event in Bluefields. With help from two other sisters from local churches we put together materials that would be needed for the weekend. June 16th the four of us flew to Bluefields for a regional Sunday School event. There were 42 teachers who attended the seminar that lasted most of the day Saturday. Each one made their own flannel board and sock puppet for use with their children. I taught a lesson in Spanish on using what is available to you and being creative in the classroom. The next morning was the two-hour children's event. In this service 5 children received the Holy Ghost and 4 were baptized in the name of Jesus! Later that afternoon we attended the Sunday service. I shared a testimony and Sister Long sang a solo.

In between the two Sunday School events I went with Brother and Sister Long to a church service on June 11th up in the mountains. Sister Long and I shared our testimonies. Brother Long preached the message. We were all warmly welcomed. Three received the Holy Ghost including a thirteen year old girl. Others were renewed. There are at least three things that I will never forget about this adventure at Abra Pueblo Nuevo.

1. We arrived early to eat dinner before service (or so we thought). We ended up eating in the back of the church during the first part of praise and worship. It was odd, but they know Americans like to eat their food while it's hot. So, they wanted to accommodate us.
2. A multitude of insects danced around the two CFL bulbs in the church while hundreds of Junebugs on steroids clung to the ceiling and walls behind us. They also flew through the air and around and onto our hair, and a frog hopped into the service near the end of Brother Long's sermon.
3. Many of the people had walked an hour one way to get to church. They were extremely grateful for a ride home in the back of the missionary's truck. I rarely see such dedication any more.

It's hard to believe that I've been in Nicaragua for a month. It's different here, but it doesn't feel strange.