

# Nicaragua Mission 2010

February 6 to 14

[www.obcmissions.org](http://www.obcmissions.org)

## Update & Background Information

This is an opportunity to really impact the lives of some of the very needy of Nicaragua. Oakridge Bible Chapel has taken a team of approximately 20 volunteers to a developing country for the past 12 years. For the past 4 years we have undertaken needed projects in an impoverished area of Nicaragua.

(Unemployment is over 80%).

**We will be working** with Larry and Donna Wright, the founders of World Mission Outreach; an organization registered in USA and Nicaragua as a non-profit humanitarian organization. We will be staying at a retreat center they established about 10 years ago.

Out of this center a number of activities take place;

- there is a local church and two pastors
- they minister to the people of the area and facilitate church leaders who bring people together for retreats and training.

-Oakridge teams have built housing for staff.

-The Wrights founded and operate a school on the site. When they arrived in the community 9 years ago, less than 100 children attended school. Now approximately 400 children attend the school. Each year they have added a grade with qualified government certified teachers.



Edgard & Judith Bonilla with Larry & Donna Wright in front

- Oakridge teams include teachers who give training and encouragement to the teachers.
- 4 years ago Oakridge team members set up a computer lab with computers donated by TD Canada Trust. Last year we constructed a new room to house the computer lab.
- they established a safe water supply to the community.

- Oakridge assisted in the cost of drilling the 1000 foot deep well, which now supplies the entire community.
- Medical Ministry International is running regular short term medical missions projects. This will develop into a permanent medical center for the community.

**Last year** we financed and worked on finishing the clinic.

- they have established regular feeding programs in their community and in surrounding communities, now feeding over 19,000 children daily at 250 feeding stations throughout the region.
- 3 years ago Oakridge teams took the lead in funding and building a large warehouse to facilitate the unloading and storage of food arriving in overseas containers.
- Last year our Oakridge team took a large quantity of good used school uniforms donated by Fern Hill private school in Oakville. We will use any spare "suitcase allowance" to do the same this year.

- 3 years ago, Oakridge set up a bicycle repair shop which now employs 2 people. Used bicycles collected in Canada are shipped regularly; repaired on site and sold, providing income for the center.

## Projects for February 2010

1. Because of the high unemployment, those who have no basic skills have little chance of being employed. The Wrights would like to set up a sewing shop to teach the girls at the schools basic skills. They have a source to donate large quantities of material in rolls.

Sewing machines have been purchased or donated and are enroute in one of the ocean containers. We have been asked to set up a classroom or shop to facilitate what they hope can become a micro industry similar to the bicycle shop.

2. Constructing a second story to one of the structures is on the "to-do" list. There are still some details which need attention on the medical center. Another project will be finishing the medical clinic and finishing an apartment to add living space for onsite workers.

3. This year we plan to work on enlarging the warehouse. Depending on how far the addition has progressed will determine how much of our time will be needed on this project.



4. We hope to provide additional training this year to the men working in the “Bike Shop”.

5. A few people will be helping out in the school. This is a great encouragement to the teachers. (And interesting to Oakridge team members, since the language is Spanish)



6. Depending on how far the local labourers have progressed, we may be working on finishing the apartment originally intended for Larry & Donna.

7. There are a lot of miscellaneous repairs needed around the center. Once we get the big projects started, we will develop the list of “overdue maintenance items”. (This list always grows and has never been fully completed on past projects).

We can use all the skills here. The electricians are especially busy as we try to get things sorted out and working. There are always computer problems to sort out. And they always need extra help with the feeding programs.

#### **Preparation**

Please bring a very flexible attitude... this is the developing world and Latin America, where they are not accustomed to our results oriented approach to things. Materials aren't always available when we arrive, we may end up doing things we didn't plan on doing etc.etc.

There is no specific immunization required and we will be eating at the center most of the time. We are asking participants to consider covering the travel, insurance, meals & accommodation cost of \$1,250. Some who cannot go are sponsoring others to go.

#### **Comments:**

Oakridge as a Community Family Church has become very aware of our responsibility to those in poor countries. Many have given generously to go and to help others go. We are all richer as a result. The amazing thing is, we who go come home feeling we received much more than we gave.

We have a great team assembled and a few more may be added in the next couple of weeks.

***Oakridge Bible Chapel  
Missions Committee***



The Adult Mission Team from 2009 — Are **YOU** going to be in this year's picture?