Pray for Nicaragua on Sunday, April 23, 2017

BY MAGYOLENE RODRIGUEZ ON APRIL 17, 2017

Lectionary Selection: John 20:19-31

Prayers for Nicaragua:

During the time of reflection that brings Holy Week, we remember the many paths that Jesus walked in his journey; trails and stories that maybe many of us will never know or imagine. On this day of prayer for Nicaragua, I would like you to reflect on a moment when you have felt alone, a moment where you saw no way out of their problems, a moment where darkness invaded your life. Maybe that moment is never going to look like the thousands of situations that Nicaraguans face in their lives every day, like the poor and vulnerable neighborhoods and communities where I serve. It is for this reason, dear brothers and sisters that Jesus continues to remind us, especially today, that he is present in every situation of our lives, even if we do not see him or touch him. We feel him and we do not need to put our fingers in his wounds to know that he has been resurrected and accompanies us.

On this day, let us pray for every brother and sister, citizens of this beautiful land that enjoys the sun of a new day throughout the year.

Mission Stewardship Moment from Nicaragua:

For Nicaraguan families, sharing a meal is very important. I want to share with you my missionary experience in the coffee communities of Matagalpa. They have the blessing of eating corn and beans throughout the year. Working with them has been a wonderful experience in my life. There are families that do not care about material possessions or luxuries the way that we do and are happy to harvest their food and, above all, to share it with those who come to visit them. My prayer on this day is for those families who live off the land, those whose farms are all they have in life. It costs them both to get seeds and to try to produce new foods because they only know how to harvest corn and beans. I know that they are receptive to grow cabbages, tomatoes, peppers or any other seed that is carried to make their...
diet more varied and share it with their neighbors in the community.

This experience has marked my life personally. They have shown me that we do not need too much to be happy, just the necessities to go forward, even when struggling with our own cross. Blessings dear brothers and sisters and never cease to appreciate the beauties of God’s creation around us.

(Prayer and Mission Moment by Magyolene Rodriguez)

Global Ministries Missionary in Nicaragua:
Magyolene Rodriguez serves as a long-term volunteer with the Convencion de Iglesias Mision Cristiana de Nicaragua. Her appointment is made possible by your gifts to Disciples Mission Fund, Our Churches Wider Mission, and your special gifts.

More information on Nicaragua:
http://www.globalministries.org/nicaragua
Nicaragua

Nicaragua is located in Central America, bordering both the Caribbean Sea and the North Pacific Ocean, between Costa Rica and Honduras.

Over the past several decades Nicaragua has suffered through military dictatorships, devastating earthquakes and hurricanes, revolution and counter-revolution, and widespread poverty. Today Nicaragua remains the second poorest nation in the western hemisphere, although today there is a real sense of rebuilding about the country, of putting the past behind and moving toward the future.

The Christian Mission Church of Nicaragua (La Misión Cristiana) is a home-grown Pentecostal denomination situated both in the barrios of Managua and in the rural areas outside the capital. The church has as its mission the preaching of the gospel of the Kingdom of God, proclaimed by Jesus and the first Christians in the power of the Holy Spirit. This preaching is done in words and deeds, so that the gospel may be seen and heard through the testimony of the church, and its commitments to the values of the Kingdom of God: justice, solidarity, equality and respect for diversity. Their vision is to encourage and support social transformation, incarnating the gospel as good news for the most vulnerable sectors of society: the poor, the sick, women, children, and people excluded from our socio-economic systems.

Pray for:

- The three-year plan of the Christian Mission of Nicaragua which includes programs and projects that will enable the church to grow and respond to the critical economic situation of the country.
- The ministry of the Moravian church among the Afro-Caribbean and indigenous population on the country’s eastern coast.

Population (2014 est) – 5,848,641
Area – 81,030 mi
Capital – Managua
Ethnic Background
- Mestizo (Amerindian and White) – 69%
- White – 17%
- Black – 9%
- Amerindian – 5%

Exports – coffee, beef, gold, sugar, peanuts, shrimp and lobster, tobacco, cigars, automobile wiring harnesses, textiles, apparel, cotton
Imports – consumer goods, machinery and equipment, raw materials, petroleum products
Life Expectancy (2014 est) – M 71 years F 75 years
Infant Mortality (2014 est) – 20.36 deaths/1,000 live births
Adult Illiteracy Rate – 22%