

## “She has a Good Spoon”



by Lori Parent, CARAZO, NICARAGUA

THERE WERE NO GOVERNMENT MANDATED RESTRICTIONS in Nicaragua to deal with the Covid “pandemic”. But, not knowing what was really happening, we took the precaution of shutting down public meetings from mid March to mid September. After things settled, we slowly introduced meetings and since January, we have been running a full schedule.

We always enjoy working with children and teens, so it saddened us to see the yard empty and void of laughing children. We are so happy to have them back. On Saturdays we have on average 30 teens who participate in group activities, enjoy some food, and receive a message. The seven teens who have professed faith in Christ receive some instruction on Christian living while the others receive a gospel message. Please pray for them. Some only come for the fun but there are others who are genuinely looking for salvation.

An average of 50 children come out to Sunday School. They are divided into two classes. We alternate a monthly camp day between the two groups. As an incentive, the children must attend at least half of the Sundays between camps to receive an invitation. Camp days are something they really look forward to with food, competitions, and a Bible lesson. We appreciate what a caring heart and the word of God can accomplish in the hearts of these little ones. We pray that this seed will bring fruit of salvation in the coming months and years.

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## A NOTE FROM INDIA & NEPAL

As many would know, India and Nepal are currently in desperate situations due to Covid. Everywhere we turn, there are cases of Covid and deaths. Till now, thankfully,



no believers in our personal connections have died. One brother from Nepal close to the Indian border has been in the ICU for two weeks now. He needs a ventilator but none is available. They are managing with manual ventilation. Covid was in our family as well – it came with the arrival of a little girl who, after much prayer, we had chosen to adopt. She has Down’s Syndrome and also cardiac issues and a history of pneumonia so it was an anxious time. Thankfully she and everyone else in our family have now recovered. Meetings are fully back to online which is disappointing in some ways but we are looking forward to Zoom visits from some brethren in Canada for ministry. Our weekly children’s class continues and despite the fact that we have had to go back to online classes, there is still a great interest with children from various parts of India attending. We are currently in lockdown with the level of restriction changing on a weekly basis. At times, even grocery stores have been closed for a week which makes getting essentials difficult. The Lord continues to provide, encourage and keep us safe for which we are very thankful. ■

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Most of my work in the mission field revolves around food, games, and artwork.

I do most of the prep work and cooking for the teen class on Saturdays. The sisters help with the finishing touches, serving and cleaning up. For camp days the sisters come the day before to help prep the food and we have a great time of fellowship. I have not yet mastered cooking rice in large quantities the way they like it; my rice usually ends up sticky and they like it flaky. One of the sisters used to cook at an orphanage and, as they say, **“She has a good spoon”**. When she is able help, we all breathe a sigh of relief as she skillfully coordinates a delicious dish. When she cannot make it, I will usually cook something more in my wheelhouse like spaghetti or a more North American style meal.



We are always looking for new games to build for the children and teens. Games are a great way to get all ages involved in the activities. It is so cute watching the little ones try and figure out what they are supposed to do and seeing the teenage leaders trying to help them. The eight- to twelve-year-olds are competitive and all cheer on their team. The teens competition gets hot, and I am sure that all our neighbors can hear them shouting. They all have fun and enjoy learning the new games.

Mitch likes using visuals to go along with his messages and I am more than happy to do the artwork. Together, we make a good team.

In the end, if I am able through my service to show God’s love to my sisters in the Lord, and they in turn can show that love to new believers and to the unsaved, I will consider my mission a success. Sometimes, the work piles up and becomes overwhelming. But we recognize that it is all worthwhile to see even one soul saved or one believer going on for the Lord. **“And let us not be weary in well doing: for in due season we shall reap, if we faint not.” GALATIANS 6:9** ■

## PLEASE PRAY –

from Rhonda Markle,  
CHITOKOLOKI, ZAMBIA

Please pray for our family as we are planning to return to Canada, for a time, for the education of our girls. Please pray that the Lord will give help with all of the details, not only in the travel, but also in all of the plans and for suitable living arrangements. Shawn plans to make frequent trips to Chitokoloki over this period. Please pray for the works that we are involved in, that they will be blessed even in the times we are away. ■



## A PRAISE...

from Sylvia Nase,  
TIRANA, ALBANIA

**“Hitherto hath the Lord helped us”** was our praise this month as we commemorated the 10th anniversary of the formation of the assembly here. We are indebted to the Lord for His faithfulness and for transformed lives by the grace of God through the work of the Spirit. As restrictions have eased significantly enough, we enjoyed a 2-day retreat with the assembly to mark the occasion.

## ... AND A PRAYER

Pray that the Lord of the Harvest will send more workers to help in Albania and that those He is calling will willingly answer! ■

## PLEASE PRAY –

from Sandra Turkington,  
BARRANCAS, VENEZUELA

- **My husband’s health needs -** We are always worrying about his next heart crises
- **Spiritual preservation of my children**
- **Salvation and physical preservation of the children we have in our home and in the school -** With unsaved parents, we don’t want the children to ever get seriously hurt.
- **For the children’s safety here in our yard.** In 1 hectare, my husband killed 3 snakes in one week. Very poisonous. And the antivenom is very hard to find.
- **For the distribution of medicines in collaboration with the Venezuela Relief Fund\*.** We could not do what we do without their help. ■

\* **Click [here](#) to be directed to this fund, which is set up through Gospel Trust Canada.**

**01. SEASONS IN THE FIELD**

I'M SEATED BY AN OUTDOOR SWIMMING POOL, watching as our twelve year old daughter starts her first set of swimming lessons since our family relocated to Canada a year ago. I half-smile as I remember how my younger-self used to wonder what it would be like to be a mother and raise our children in Canada. Taking them to swimming lessons, music lessons, or the library, hosting birthday parties that would always include grandparents, packing lunches for school and volunteering to help out on field trips, making appointments for dental check-ups every six months, planning road trips to visit cousins, inviting friends and neighbours to our welcoming home, and attending Bible conferences on long weekends were some of the things I envisioned myself doing as a mother raising a family in Canada. Twenty-one years into this role, I acknowledge that my "dreams" around mothering reflect an enormous amount of privilege that not all mothers in Canada have, never mind those in other countries of this world. Life for mothers everywhere brings tremendous responsibility that often includes years of sacrifices, sleep deprivation, trials, and tests.

God, however, had a very different plan for my life that has deeply impacted me as a mother. He had a plan that included serving Him, along with my husband Samuel, cross-culturally outside of our passport country. When God first put this burden on my heart, Samuel was traveling overseas to Zambia to complete a medical school elective. At the time he arranged his medical experience in Chavuma, he clearly stated to the hosting missionary doctor that he

had no interest in being a missionary, he was visiting Zambia solely for education purposes. He had not been in Zambia for long before the thrill and excitement of practicing medicine in the bush and the warmth of the Zambian people and their openness to the gospel gripped him. Samuel was sending me brief emails over satellite phone asking what I thought about moving to the mission field and reassuring me that many of the missionaries he was meeting had raised their children overseas. When he mentioned the words "boarding school", I immediately and emphatically replied, "No! I could never do that!". The idea of taking our two little boys overseas put my stomach in knots. When God finally answered my pleas for direction and encouragement by asking me through His Word to be a light to the ends of the earth (ACTS 13:47), my response was a solid, "No! Not this, God." Over two years I wrestled with this call. Many nights I lay awake and cried as I thought of what might lie ahead of me, primarily as a mother, if I replied "yes" to God's invitation. I was largely ignorant of the implications of being a mother and raising children overseas, but I knew that I would face challenges that would push me out of my comfort zone in ways that I did not want. When I finally chose to answer God with, "Yes, Lord, I'll go wherever you want me to go," it required a conscious step of faith in which I entrusted the care of myself, our family, and our future into God's hands.

There are such a variety of contexts where missionaries who are mothers live and serve cross-culturally, yet there are common themes that characterize our collective experiences. Raising one's children overseas holds the potential for great spiritual growth and a deepening relationship with the Lord when we humbly trust God in places that are different from our passport countries. This blessing and growth comes with sacrifice and cost, though, and the challenges many of us face are significant. God placed me mainly on the African continent in resource-poor settings where I experienced all the stages of mothering five children; from giving birth to launching young men commencing university back in Canada without their parents. Personally, due to my life overseas, I have experienced more goodbyes and losses than I care to count along with cross-cultural transitions, loneliness, trauma, and anxiety. All of these have impacted my physical, spiritual, emotional, and mental health and who

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I am as a mother. I have grappled with my role and what it looks like to be a missionary and mother at the same time. I have questioned if this is even possible in certain seasons of life. I have faced the difficult and daunting decisions around education that mothers (and fathers) on the field face, and I have borne much of the responsibility for educating our children at home, although we have experienced inter-

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national school and, yes, boarding school, too. I have faced realities over the safety of our children, and I have always been aware that outside medical help and healthcare are out of reach of our home overseas. I

am no heroine or super-mom, I am a woman who has constantly turned to God for wisdom over the years as I have faced my own weakness and the challenges that serving Him overseas inevitably brings. I am not

the only one. There are many other women living cross-culturally who are experiencing the same joys and challenges that have been my reality as a mother and a missionary. ■



Missionary mothers around the world need your faithful prayer support. Will you consider reaching out to one of these mothers to let her know that you are committing to pray for her? Ask if she has any specific prayer requests related to her role as a mother on the field and then consistently bring her to our Father in prayer.

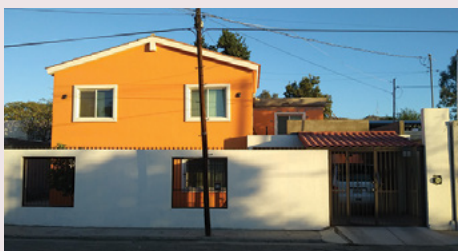


### UPDATE!

from Stephanie Woodford,  
HERMOSILLO, MEXICO,



When lockdown happened here in Hermosillo, Mexico, in spring 2020, we decided to use any extra time we had to get some construction projects on the house done. The house is around 70 years old, and we've lived here for eight, so there was lots to do. We replaced the car port, and a patio roof and floor out the back of our house. This year, because of age and major water damage, the entire parking (cement exterior of the walls) of the house needed to be knocked off and replaced, which turned our house into a complete disaster from about January to March. It was done in stages, so we lived upstairs while the main floor



was being done, and lived downstairs while the upstairs was being done. We're thankful that the dust has finally settled, and the house is mostly all back together again. ■



Click [HERE](#) to watch the May 17 session recording - if you missed it or want to see it again!

GALATIANS 6:9

“And let us not be weary in well doing: for in due season we shall reap, if we faint not.”

**Save the Date!** Our next online session is tentatively planned for **September 20**. Mark your calendar, and in the meantime, stay updated on our Instagram page, and through this monthly newsletter!

**Give...** If you would like to financially support these women or others on the field, you can do so securely through the following websites:

[WWW.MSCCANADA.ORG](http://WWW.MSCCANADA.ORG)

[WWW.GOSPELTRUST.CA](http://WWW.GOSPELTRUST.CA)

