



## Newsletter for Nicoya Friends Christian Mission

January 2010 – March 2010

### **The mission of Nicoya Friends is to build an orphanage for Sexually abused children and victims of human trafficking in Nicaragua**

I would like to begin by giving thanks to our Lord Jesus Christ for the blessings he has brought forth to Nicoya Friends Mission these past 3 months. And let the peace of God rule in our hearts... and be ye thankful. Colossians 3:15

Our board members, Linda Rowland and Maria Stiger had the opportunity to travel with me to Nicaragua in February as well as Colette and Daniel Bercu, founders of Free for Life Ministries [www.freeforlifeministries.org](http://www.freeforlifeministries.org). During our trip, we had the privilege to meet with the Director for Families, Marcia Ramirez (pictured in the center below), in Managua Nicaragua. She has recently been appointed Ministry of Families Director in Nicaragua. In this position a key part of her duties will include the oversight of governmental efforts against human trafficking in Nicaragua. Colette and Dr. Daniel Bercu, founders of Free for Life International, along with directors of Nicoya & Friends Mission were honored to meet with her to talk about their work concerning human trafficking. The discussion included the future placement of minor victims into the shelter, efforts the Nicaraguan government is making in the fight against trafficking, and a potential collaboration concerning awareness and victim services with Free for Life International.

Meeting with the Minister was a wonderful blessing for our mission and we will begin to work together in our efforts to help end modern day slavery.



In March we were blessed to receive three additional victims of human trafficking into our shelter. These new girls are from Central America. We have begun therapy sessions with them as they have a history of traumatic experiences - experiences that no child/children should have to go through. For example, one of our newest victims had been repeatedly abused by family members since the age of 6 and was sold for the purpose of sexual exploitation.





Our residents in our center continue to enjoy their crafts and computer courses with new computer equipment donated by Shell. They will begin courses in Hairdressing, Jewelry making, Baking and Folklorico dancing very soon. They continue to do well in school and look forward to continuing to work hard to be successful adults.

The Department of State is required by law to submit a report each year to the U.S. Congress on foreign governments' efforts to eliminate severe forms of trafficking in persons. This report is called the TIP report and it is intended to raise global awareness, highlight efforts of the international community and to encourage foreign governments to take effective actions to counter off forms of trafficking in persons. I would like to share with you a little information about the TIP report for 2009:

*Nicaragua is principally a source and transit country for women and children trafficked for the purposes of commercial sexual exploitation and forced labor. Women and children are trafficked within the country and to neighboring countries, most often to El Salvador, Costa Rica, Guatemala, Honduras, Mexico and the United States. All forms of human trafficking appear to be growing in Nicaragua, which NGO (non-governmental organizations) indicate is underreported to authorities.*

The U.S. State Department's 2009 TIP Report places Nicaragua on a Tier 2 Watch List, stating that the government of Nicaragua does not fully comply with the minimum standards for the elimination of trafficking. However, they also state that they are making significant efforts to do so.

Jason's Deli has what they call "Fundraising Night" in which they give a portion of their profits made on certain days to non-profit organizations. We would like to thank Jason's Deli for allowing us to partner with them on their fundraising nights.

I want to thank all who have supported and donated to our mission. I also want to thank our volunteers who work so hard to organize fundraising events.

Many Blessings to you and your families.

Doramaria Garcia  
President

**For monetary donations please mail to:  
Nicoya & Friends Christian Mission  
A Non-profit organization  
P. O. Box 550554  
Houston, Texas 77255-0554**