



The last two weeks in December will be filled with activities. These are pictures from the lock-in in Jinotega. Emanuel (left) won the brick holding contest!



Two teams of teens had to pass a whiffle-ball down the line using small pieces of PVC pipe. It was hard, but Kerlinger and Maydeling (center) had solid technique.



We sang, played games, had two great lessons, ate and laughed. I love seeing them smile like Gabi and Yarelis (right). Thankfully it happens frequently!

Jinotega, Nicaragua

January 2016

Full. Lleno.

You have made known to me the paths of life; you will make me **full** of gladness with your presence. Acts 2:28

I don't quite know that God has shown me my exact *path of life*, but He has *made known* that He wants us to live with his kingdom in the front of our minds! He also has filled me with *his presence*. All praise to Him. I was able to spend five weeks in the States being filled. Filled with family, English, food, the Spirit's joy, snow, rest, and friends. In December, I was not running completely on empty, but I was running low. However, God provided daily then gave me my family to make up the difference.

In most of my experience with ministry, I have not maintained a consistent level of fullness. I was full then a new storm blew in and the fuel went with it. Ruth and Naomi talk about this change. Namoi said, "I went away full, and the Lord has brought me back empty" (Ruth 1:21). Later Ruth is described as full after working Boaz's fields. The tension in the full or low reminds me of my dependence on Him. If I am full, it's because He is showing mercy and blessing me. If I am feeling empty, I have to examine how I am seeking his presence. And it may be a time where low is the normal.

I am also thrilled to share that I am fully funded this year through donations at the beginning of the year and the support of Snellville Church of Christ! I am not sure I can explain the freedom that gives me. The peace of knowing I do not have to spend time writing more letters or reminding sponsors is such a blessing. Snellville has been my home congregation since I was 10. Meeting with our elders and knowing the church believes in me enough to trust me with their support... It was overwhelming. My cup is beyond full. Thank you!



English Class Dinner

Last year I taught an English class that was open to about 12 of our teens as a reward for being responsible and staying involved. While we discussed lots of themes, we had a Bible verse each week that we translated and practiced too. Every class ended in a prayer. That prayer was one of my favorite parts of the day because they volunteered to say it! They're not all baptized, but they are learning who God is and how to speak with Him- in any language. This year, the top five students are going to a daily English school in town! They are so excited to enroll!



Often I forget to take pictures of life; however, when I remember, I love the results of the moments captured!

1. Jommel and I (with a group of 8 friends) hiked to the top of the mountain to sit by the cross. He is such a fun boy to be around. Praying he grows up to love Jesus as much as he loves to run! 2. Two sisters (very long names) and I made cookies before Christmas. They took some home to share with their brother and mom, and the youth group girls ate the rest later that night. 3. Back in the States, working downtown at America's Mart. I don't think I could find a temp job more different than my everyday job, but I am thankful for the opportunity to work, learn and talk about Jesus. 4. The nights we curled up on the couch laughing and sharing are what fill my soul. They are the reason I come back to the States. 5 & 6. Snow! My grandmother said, "I think God did this just for you." She loves the beauty the snow brings too. Being "stuck" at her house an extra day was such a blessing! 7. Mom and I stayed with my great-grandmother, her grandmother, for a weekend. We heard stories about her late husband and are continually surprised at her will-power. She is a strong woman of God at the young age of 96. 8. The week I got back to Jinotega, the Ladies' Class had a trip planned. We sang at least 3 hours in the van and just shared time together. So thankful for the example these women set for the congregation!

Prayer Requests:

Thank you for reading this section. It takes me the longest to write each time. Sharing my dreams, needs and desires with the Creator of the universe is such a special gift. Thank you for entering my world and sharing with our Father too!

- Wisdom- while I return to a familiar place, things are always changing. I continually re-evaluate my role to see if I am serving in the best way.
- Zeal- keep my passion to love and teach Jesus to the teens and kids
- Consistency- for the leaders and youth group here in the church
- Open Eyes- to notice the needs of those around me, especially the non-physical
- Hope- to actively dream and ask God for the immeasurable

Praises to our Lord because he brought me back to Jinotega safely and gave me a new friend, Heather (pictured above). She recently moved here and is full of God's Spirit! An answered prayer!



These things I have spoken to you, that my joy may be in you, and that your joy may be full. John 15:11