



Jinotega, Nicaragua

February 2016

## I thought I was patient.

Rejoice in hope; be **patient** in affliction; be faithful in prayer. Romans 12:12

I can teach a crazy teenager how to drive a stick shift without yelling at them. I can learn Spanish, most of the time, without crying. I can answer computer questions and repeat myself without being frustrated. I can sit in the back seat while people figure out directions without worrying. I can wait in line like a champ. I thought I was patient. I thought I had learned how to wait on God.

Then this month began. I heard that my sweet little friend, who had been in foster care, was being taken to an orphanage. She asked me if I could go with her to the ministry of family (similar to Child Services) to find out more information. I told her I would be available. So I waited all afternoon. Nothing. No news. I prayed more and waited longer. Still no news the next day. After visiting her foster mom, I learned she had been taken to Managua. My heart broke for her again, as it has many times over the last five months. While I waited for updates, I had to be patient and let God take care of her.

I was also shopping for our school uniform give away one Monday. These skirts were becoming more impossible to find. But one woman said she would have them Tuesday. I was so excited! However when I go see her, she said, "I'm sorry. I lied. I thought we could get them, but we couldn't. They should be here for sure by Friday." Again waiting. Just 4 days. But in that moment, I did not want to wait. I did not want to be patient. They eventually came in and the girls were happy. We are trying to wrap this process up even though requests continue to come in. Turning people away is hard.

There are other dreams and ideas rolling around in my head. I know God is saying *Wait... wait... You will know the moment it is time to take action.* So I believe Him. Because of my belief, I trust Him. Because of the trust, I can have peace. And it's only with His peace, that I can be patient.



### Friday Night Visits

Becky, one of the other North Americans that lives and serves here in Jinotega, started a visitation ministry with a few of our teens. She saw a need to connect our adults and teens more and began with a group of 4 teens. It's grown into almost a group of 20 adults and teenagers that go on Friday evenings. This last week we visited a family from church that lives half way up the side of a mountain. The husband, wife and their two girls walk to church each week. We cooked soup and shared a meal and spent time fellowshiping. This picture is the view from their house.



These 5 smiling kids and many others were outfitted with shoes, socks, pants (or a skirt), a shirt, and supplies for school. We spent a lot of time finding all the materials at the best price and packing them together. The children we selected to help are from church, our children's classes or the One Child Matters program. Their excitement for school is contagious. Seeing them (weeks later) faithfully going is a great encouragement.

And we urge you, brothers, admonish the idle, encourage the fainthearted, help the weak, be patient with them all. 1 Thess 5:14



Our most recent visiting groups were from Texas Tech and Harding. They both refreshed and renewed my perspective. I love seeing the different roles we all have in God's kingdom. Some are nurses, teachers, engineers, business workers and ministers... God made me to be me. Not anyone else.

### Prayer Requests:

- Intentional: Lots of days don't have a specific plan or things that need to be done right away. Please pray that I am disciplined enough to be intentional with the extra time
- Patience: It's easy to love the easy friends we met, but God calls us to so much more than that. He calls us to love all His children (young and old) with patience.
- Discipline: to be consistent with my spiritual life and workout time.
- Hope: to trust God and dream big.
- Security: the sweet friend of mine in who was in foster care may be with her adoptive family now. Still trying to find her and understand the details. Please pray that God gives her security and peace through her transitions.



May you be strengthened with all power, according to his glorious might, for all endurance and patience with joy... Colossians 1:11