

Students in Sisle listening to a Bible story from the visiting group.



Jinotega, Nicaragua

March 2016

## Learning to Surrender

Yet you, Lord, are our Father.

We are the clay, you are the potter;  
we are all the work of your hand. Isaiah 64:8

I definitely am a planner, type A personality. Not to an obsessive level, but I do like to have a plan. However, I can just go with the flow, if I trust the person in charge of the day or activity. When I know they will face the challenges, not run from them, I can let someone else lead without feeling the need to insert my point of view.

The downfall in planning is it can lead me to think that I am in control. That certainly is the most incorrect assumption! James tells us we do not know what's going to happen in an hour much less a year (James 4:13-14). So with this thought process the word written on my mirror for the year is surrender.

I am learning to surrender to the almighty, supreme Lord. He has to guide my path. I have to allow Him. Daily I am trying to surrender my wants to spread His glory. Some days that is easily done. We have a youth group activity, and I love encouraging those teens. Or we have a baseball game, and I will be on the sideline cheering and coaching with all the energy I have. But then there are other meetings or activities that I do not have the excitement for. I want to rest instead of being with the church body. That's when I have to surrender.

Surrender also applies to my dreams. I have to be careful to not focus on what I am hoping will happen that I miss the ways God is trying to ask me to shine His glory. Then, I remember Isaiah, "My ways are higher than the heavens" (55:8-9). No matter how well I can plan a girl's night, my plans are in vain, if I am not doing it to glorify Him, if I am not surrendering to His word. May we all learn to surrender little more and more each week.



### Youth Group Lock-In

We partnered with another church in a town about 10 minutes away to have a lock-in. Taking the theme that Christ is our Rock and we need to build on His foundation. We spent a good portion of the night singing, laughing and playing games! It was good to visit with teens from another group and see what they like to do. We are planning another one for the end of April with 5 different youth groups.



Baseball season has begun for our little league team. We have a new coach this year, 4 returning players and 14 new kids on the team. They are so excited to play! With just a few weeks of practice and games under our belts, it's been great to see them enjoy themselves and improve!

March had 5 visiting groups and each group is a little different in activities and purpose. The group from South Plains brought such joy to our community, especially our children. Through visiting schools with VBS (front photo), day cares and our One Child Matters centers, they jumped right in interacting, loving and teaching the students. It was special to watch them share their energy so freely. Bubbles quickly became a highlight of the week!



The week before Easter, Holy Week, is vacation for most of the country as Nicaragua follow Catholic traditions. I took a day trip with my friend Isabel and her family to spend the afternoon playing in a river. We had a blast splashing, teaching the little kids to swim and just laughing. I'm thankful for friends and free time!

### Prayer Requests:

- **Wisdom (Sabiduria):** to continue to learn and integrate into a culture that is not my own with grace.
- **Youth Group (Grupo de Jóvenes):** These teens are so close to being sold out for our Father. Please pray we guide them deeper in the word to our Lord.
- **Travel:** Thankfully I have an opportunity to visit many of you in April. Praying the travel is smooth and safe!

**Praise:** I've mentioned my sweet girl who was taken from her family by the Ministry of Family and placed in foster care as they began finding her a permanent home that was a safe place for her. Well, after 6 months of transitions, courts, polices visits, she has been placed with the family that is planning to adopt her! God answered our prayers for her security and took care of her worries by keeping her in Jinotega! He is faithful!



Therefore I urge you, brethren, by the mercies of God, to present your bodies a living and holy sacrifice, acceptable to God, which is your spiritual service of worship. Romans 12:1