

Visiting Las Carpoules
[warning: horse needed!]



Jinotega, Nicaragua

December 2016

Belief

And Jesus said to him, "If you can't! All things are possible for one who believes." *Immediately* the father of the child cried out and said, "**I believe; help my unbelief!**" Mark 9:23-24



There was a moment. It was so fleeting but brought such an impact. It was a moment of unbelief. Less than a second when the devil won my thoughts during a time of deep sadness. I was sitting on the floor in front of the fireplace crying because the text I received said, "She died just now." My weak human self wanted to say, "What's the poi..." But the Spirit didn't allow me to finish the phrase. Praise the Lord that his Holy Spirit guides me when my flesh fails me because I knew the answer to that terrible question. Better than simply knowing the answer, I believe it!

Now that doesn't mean I don't mourn. I still am. A sweet friend who was a beloved daughter, wife and mother. Cecilia was fragile from her years of fighting cancer, but she still gave the strongest hugs. I am back in Jinotega now and have seen and hugged her brave children. There's something about hugs. It's an invasion of your personal space. However, it also seems to relay emotions and hope in a unique way that words lack. For that, thankful am I. (Sorry too much Star Wars!)

Christmas brought our family together in many different cities; we always travel- but I like the road trips. When all the festivities were finished and the kitchen was clean, we sat down and smiled reflecting on the day and the year. It was special and honoring to the ones present and the ones we've lost. Praying you all had opportunities to hug and cherish the people you love. Thank you for loving and supporting me too! Thank you for being part of the light that pushes through the unbelief so I can proclaim, "Yes, I believe!"

School Adventures

Some of the schools we work with are close enough to walk to. Others require a drive. There's one that's really far out. You need to drive (in 4-wheel drive) for about an hour, then cross a river on horseback, then walk about a mile. But if you are up for that adventure, you find yourself at a precious community: Las Carpoules. They welcomed us with open arms, introduced us to their children and shared their dreams for their school. We took a few of our high school students with us, each live 5-15 minutes from their school. Seeing the opportunities they have to study compared to those in the countryside was eye opening.



1. Graduations happened daily. Gaby graduated from high school and hopes to go to college. She is smart, talented and so kind! 2. I got to spend my birthday with lots of friends, these especially brighten my day and my world. 3. We had a lock-in with a youth group from León. Lots of games and lots of beans! 4. Seeing these boys grow into young men is a true pleasure. If only they would stop growing taller! 5. Cherished ones.



Prayer Requests:

- **Leadership:** Strong leaders who are seeking God!
- **Comfort:** December brought sadness and concern to many families. Please pray for God to comfort them and give them peace as they heal.
- **Passports:** We are in the process of getting passports for our baseball team. They have been invited to the states. Pray for the papers and the hearts of these children as we continue to dream.
- **House:** I have a solid lead on a house and hope to move in by the middle of January.



Praise: For all the ways we got to witness God working in 2016. I can't wait to see what He does in 2017 as we dream with Him! Thank you for being His hands and feet and for speaking His words of truth!

“The Lord himself goes before you and will be with you; He will never leave you nor forsake you.” Deuteronomy 31:8