

May 24, 2011

To Our Dear Sisters and Brothers in Laurel Galan,

We think of you so often and pray that God's blessings surround you and your families. We hope the weather and rainfall have been good and that you will have a more plentiful harvest for your families and your animals.

We have received the two community letters written by Ligia – the one Bill Williams brought back in March and the one Adrian translated in April. It was so good to hear from you though we were saddened by the hardship the community experienced last year during the severe rainy season. We rejoice to hear about your meetings every 15 days and your activities during Lent. We pray Christ's resurrection on Easter filled you with hope and the fullness of God's love for each of you and your loved ones.

We at Peace also want to improve our communication with you. We met on May 15<sup>th</sup> to discuss ways this can be done. We will mail letters to Nan McCurdy and Zoraida of Mujer y Comunidad in Managua. We will also mail them 10-12 stamped envelopes addressed to me (Arlene Reed). When you write a letter to us, mail it from a communications office in San Francisco Libre. Please do not use cursive writing but instead print the letters as printed letters are easier for us to read. Zoraida will give our letters and the stamped envelopes to Gloria who lives in Laurel Galan. She will deliver the letters to Ligia. We truly hope this will help us to communicate on a regular basis as we know communication is essential for the well-being of our relationship.

This is a busy time for us at Peace Lutheran Church. We are beginning a program to support local farmers so that we can buy fresh, organic products directly from the farms. This not only helps our local farmers but it also helps us here in the city to understand what is involved in sustainable agriculture.

Last Sunday we featured Partnership at our church. We had displays, photo albums, and letters describing our partnerships with you in Laurel Galan, Nicaragua, and also in South Africa. (Do you remember meeting Calvin from South Africa several years ago when we had a delegation from Peace to Laurel Galan?) We all know how we have been so profoundly blessed through our partnership relationships, and we always want to share these blessings with other members of our church.

There are exciting things happening to the families who have visited you.

- Ceil McCloy and her family are attending the university graduation of their son.
- Karl and Grace Pfeiffer will be visiting their daughter, Elisabeth, in Germany where she has been studying this past year.

- Bobby Winters has come home from his first year in college in Colorado to the delight of his mom, Christy, sister, Allison, and father.
- Pastor Steve is involved in so many important ministries for our congregation.
- Pastor Margareta is excited about her new grandchild.
- Libby Flynn is a new member of our partnership committee. She is a member of our church governing council and is a firm supporter of our hermanamientos.
- Arlene and her husband, Raphel, have recently returned from a wonderful visit with their children and grandchildren in Washington and Oregon.

We so look forward to hearing from you! We pray that God will bless each one of you with the fullness of his peace and love.

The Peace Lutheran Church Partnership Committee