

## **To: Potential 2007 Mission Team Leaders and Members**

We are excited about your interest in partnering with El Ayudante as we serve alongside the people of Nicaragua to bring change to a nation. Short-term mission teams are vital to our mission of transformation!

In obedience to God, we have worked diligently over the last five years to establish a solid foundation from which to build an effective ministry. This foundation includes safe and comfortable housing for mission teams, a dynamic staff in Nicaragua, and status with local and national government. A ministry strategy has been developed and is being implemented which is giving hope to and changing the lives of tens of thousands in Leon, Matagalpa, and northwest Nicaragua!

### **Mission Team Housing/Staff**

#### ***Leon:***

Mission team housing, located on 31 beautiful acres near Leon, consists of four dormitories. Each dormitory has its own bathroom with individual showers and is supported by a central kitchen, dining area, veranda, laundry room, and offices. A staff of over 25 is specifically devoted to caring for the teams, upkeep of team housing and grounds, and assisting in the planning and implementation of the many ministries of mission teams. Omar Alvarado, Executive Director of El Ayudante in Nicaragua, oversees this and additional staff which includes an architect, accountant, lawyer, translators, drivers, cooks, guards, builders, and gardeners.

#### ***Matagalpa:***

While mission team housing is being constructed on a beautiful coffee plantation high in the mountains near Matagalpa, we are facilitating teams through an excellent hotel which overlooks the city of 140,000. Omar Alvarado, directs a staff of 10 in Matagalpa supported in the planning/design phases of ministry by professionals on staff in Leon. Matagalpa is a frontier for ministry where poverty rates are nearly twice the national average.

### **Status with National and Local Government**

El Ayudante, Inc., a 501(c)3, non-profit, tax-exempt US corporation, has obtained tax-exempt, NGO status in Nicaragua. Special working relationships have been developed with Nicaragua's Ministry of the Family and Ministry of Health. Most importantly, El Ayudante has developed a strong partnership with the Office of Mayor, Leon. Former Leon Mayor, Denis Perez, spoke at groundbreaking ceremonies for El Ayudante's facility in 2001 and Leon's city council has passed numerous resolutions in support of El Ayudante's ministry to the people. In June of 2005, Leon's mayor-elect, Transito Genaro Tellez, praised the work of mission teams and initiated an "Agreement of Cooperation" between the City of Leon and El Ayudante. This agreement formalizes our partnership with this and future administrations and allows mission teams unprecedented cooperation from local government! A relationship with the Office of Mayor, Matagalpa has also been established. As we develop ministry to Matagalpa, we will work closely with the administration of Matagalpa Mayor, Dr. Nelson Artola.

### **Ministry Strategy**

We are convinced that when the Gospel is presented in its entirety—in both deed and word—it will transform lives and the tenor of communities. Mission teams are serving as agents of transformation through their participation in ministry that addresses humanitarian, educational, and spiritual needs. Short-term missionaries minister alongside their Nicaraguan counterparts under the authority God has ordained in the communities and cities where they serve.

Before departure to Nicaragua, mission team leaders work with El Ayudante volunteers in Tennessee to develop an itinerary for ministry. Key factors in developing the itinerary include the gifts of team members and the promptings of the Holy Spirit. Ministry is strategic, based on collaboration with local leaders and building upon the ministry of previous teams. The groundwork for a team's ministry is completed weeks before the team arrives in Nicaragua.

Please contact Bill Cox at [billcox@nicamissions.com](mailto:billcox@nicamissions.com); 731-660-4985 (home); or 731-697-8377 (cell) to discuss scheduling a team.