

February 2005

On January 14th, the ribbon cutting ceremony for the child protection center, Hogar Cristiano Nicaraguense (HCN), was held with Ligia Teran de Astorga, Nicaragua's Vice-Minister of the Family, as the keynote speaker. The Vice-Minister represented President Enrique Bolanos who had accepted the invitation to be keynote speaker for the ceremony, but was unable to attend because of a last minute breakthrough in negotiations with former Presidents Daniel Ortega and Arnoldo Aleman who hold permanent congressional seats. This breakthrough, "Accord for National Dialogue", was mediated by United Nation officials and Nicaragua's Cardinal Obando y Bravo. Even though President Bolanos was unable to attend the ceremony, he thanked El Ayudante for ministry to Nicaragua. We thanked President Bolanos for the "integrity of his administration which has created an environment where ministry can prosper" and pledged our prayers for him as he leads.

Ligia Teran de Astorga, as keynote speaker, encouraged and challenged us as we prepare to minister to the most vulnerable of Nicaragua. As a member of President Bolanos' Cabinet, Ligia Teran is the second highest ranking official in the Ministry of the Family which oversees all child protection centers in Nicaragua. Also, in attendance were Dr. Ivan Tercero, representing US Ambassador Barbara Moore, Edmundo Icaza, Vice-Mayor of Leon, and over 50 community leaders and friends. A reception was held after the ceremony in the child protection center where refreshments were served.

Omar Alvarado, El Ayudante's administrator in Nicaragua, met with Ministry of the Family personnel on February 17 at HCN in Leon. These representatives assured Omar that children will be in their new "home" by February 28! Representatives also requested that future mission teams be utilized to teach (both children and personnel) and minister in child protection centers throughout Nicaragua. El Ayudante and Ministry of the Family representatives have been diligently working through the process since September 2004.



Omar Alvarado (Administrator, El Ayudante, Nicaragua), Oliver Corrales (Administration, HCN), Bill Cox and Mark Northern (Board of Directors, El Ayudante), Ligia Teran de Astorga, (Vice Minister of the Family, Nicaragua), and Ruth Alvarado (Administrator of Child Protection Center)



Vice Minister Ligia Teran de Astorga cutting ribbon

