

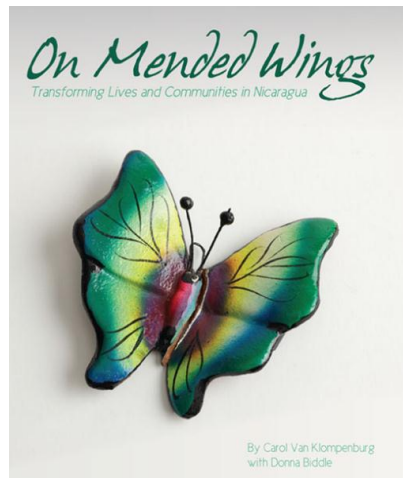


KICKED OUT OF HER CHURCH AND INTO THE COMMUNITY

Who is Christ? What is the Church? Her church kicked her out for asking these questions that made them uncomfortable. Her response was to visit with neglected and abused neighborhood girls, giving her time and ears to listen to their pain. The changes in the girls infected her husband and together they work with more youth on the edge of the city and society. They try to see these youth as different from the common labels of *lazy, dangerous, self-absorbed, drop-outs, slackers, un-educated, losers*. Because of her new understanding of Christ she sees the youth as *lost, life, future, energy, possibilities, worthwhile*. As I walked away from her I thought to myself, *How do I see Christ? How do I see the Church? How do I see the social outcasts?*

The Nehemiah Center exists to walk alongside Nicaraguan leaders like this woman to promote what God's desire is for us here on earth, not just in Heaven. Thankfully, we are seeing changes - changes in families, schools, churches and businesses and changes in communities. Please see the next page to learn how you might be able to more specifically support this change process.

GREAT READ – GREAT CHRISTMAS GIFT!



There is a new book that you have to read. *On Mended Wings* tells the story of God-at-work through the Nehemiah Center. This book powerfully portrays the larger context for our work in Nicaragua.

Based on three years of research, the book reveals God's transforming power through stories, information, photographs, and journal entries of its co-author Carol Van Klompenburg. It shows the power that is unleashed when individuals, denominations, and agencies collaborate to transform individuals and communities in Nicaragua.

In its pages, you'll meet Lourdes Rivas, an uneducated pastor's wife forced to make her home behind a curtain inside the church building, and Daniel Aragón, once a leader in the Sandinista army and a drug addict. Through these stories and many others, you will learn how Nicaraguans are being transformed and then are working in their communities to transform others.

On Mended Wings can be ordered for \$14.99 at

<http://www.thewriteplace.biz/bookplace/onmendedwings.html>

*A royalty from each purchase supports the ongoing work of the Nehemiah Center.

Praise that the rainy season was a good one!

Praise that the presidential elections were peaceful, **Pray** for the leaders that they submit to God's will.

Praise that school has gone well for the kids, **Pray** for all the teachers in this country.

Praise for the support you have given!

*Thanks,
Steve, Kim, Alia, Nathan & Elise*



Much of our work is with the Nehemiah Center, helping Nicaraguan churches disciple their members, with a special focus on marginalized women, youth and children in their communities. Over 150 evangelical churches have participated in the training offered by the Nehemiah Center. Training equips churches in the areas of integral church growth, holistic evangelism, family ministry, prevention of domestic violence, pastoral counseling, outreach to youth at risk, ministry to persons with AIDS, Christian schooling, and Kingdom business development. Here are three specific ways to help:

805587 Nehemiah Center - \$17,100 needed: The Nehemiah Center has found that personal relationships with leaders and their spouses are essential building blocks for the application of a Biblical worldview to other areas of life. The Nehemiah Center trainers develop networks of leaders that work together on such issues as marriage reconciliation and health, finances, children, communication, conflict resolution, forgiveness, etc. There are over 3000 people in these networks.

805816 Healthy Churches - \$15,000 needed: The Nicaraguan church is very evangelistic but has not always been strong in discipling believers for all of life. The result has been that many Christians continue to live by the dominant societal values in their lives from Monday - Saturday. The Healthy Church Initiative of the Nehemiah Center works with up to 15 leaders from each church, helping them to better live out the Biblical mandate to evangelize and disciple their own communities. Churches evaluate their own effectiveness in modeling a healthy community and in developing an integral word and deed outreach. \$100 trains one church leader through the course of one year.

805833 Timothy Leadership Training - \$2000 needed: Pastors networks in Nicaragua are implementing the learning from the Timothy Leadership Training offered in conjunction with Calvin Seminary to improve their preaching, teaching and pastoral care. Twenty pastors are involved in this.



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I (we) would like to support **Timothy Leadership Training** (WM-805833)

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