

## Nicaragua overview

LCC MISSIONARY Rev. Sandor Arguello responded to a student's questions about the mission work in Nicaragua.

Thanks for your note. We are so glad to receive e-mails like yours.

As you may know I am a Lutheran Church-Canada missionary serving in Nicaragua, Central America. My family and I have been here more than seven years. The first two years of our ministry were the most challenged ones. We were the first Christian Lutherans in the whole area. Most of the people here are traditionally Roman Catholics. There also are few Pentecostals and Jehovah Witnesses.

Our main task since the beginning was to proclaim the Gospel to all our neighbours. Wherever we went, we witnessed Jesus as our Lord and Saviour. It still remains our task. My family and I are no longer the only Christian Lutherans in the area. Thanks to God, our Lutheran Church has ordained 12 national pastors (three of them are missionaries serving in foreign countries), two deacons, and 17 deaconesses. All of them are serving full time in different communities across Nicaragua. In seven years of mission work we have established 18 new Lutheran congregations located in three major provinces: Chinandega, Leon and Matagalpa. Our church has more than 3,000 worshipers, 650 children are in our new Lutheran Schools receiving instruction in mathematics, Spanish and the Christian faith.

My role as a missionary remains the same. I am always praying for opportunities to serve for the sake of the Gospel and the salvation of many. Often the challenge we face is the lack of resources. Here in Nicaragua it is difficult to get Bibles or any kind of Christian literature. We have to bring all these resources from outside.

## Children hear the message of Christmas in Ukraine



*Members of the team from Alpha and Omega Christian Student Society who participated in a Christmas children's drama evangelism outreach.*

During the Advent and Christmas season a drama team from the Dnepropetrovsk Christian student group presented a Christmas drama to more than 1,000 children. On December 29, the team went to Krivorog and presented the drama to Orphanage # 2 and in the afternoon at the home for runaway boys. These boys, between 6 and 16 years old, many addicted to glue sniffing, have been living on the streets and sleeping on top of warm water pipes throughout the city. They are brought to this home to receive the care they so desperately need. "What a joy it was to share the true meaning of

Christmas with them," reports LCC missionary, Rev. Roland Syens.

On January 7 the team presented the Christmas message to the children who are part of the children's ministries of Alpha and Omega. About 60 children attended a morning presentation, and more than 150 the afternoon performance. Each child received a Christmas present. Following Christmas, the team visited two more children's homes and three government schools in nearby cities and villages. Pastor Syens calls it a "wonderful opportunity to share the true meaning and message of Christmas."

The greatest joy for me is seeing how fruitful is the Gospel when it's proclaimed in all its purity. It changes people from inside, then to the outside. The whole person is transformed when there is hope and faith in our beautiful Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ. I have seen great miracles with people you may say they were "real bad." Now they are serving the Lord with love and gladness. Jesus is really our merciful and loving Saviour!

You can help us praying to God for our ministry and mission. You also can help us by sharing with your friends the love of God through Jesus. You, your pastor, congregation and our mission here in Nicaragua are connected to one another through the church doing God's will for the salvation of the world.

Thanks for your love and concern for our Lord's Kingdom everywhere. May He bless and keep you always in His loving arms.