



insider

Volunteer Update
April, 2012

Interfaith Service to Latin America 270 Page Street West Saint Paul, MN 55107
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John Cambronne and Donald Meese had their hands full on this beam installation at the remodeled Jalapa Public Library. Photo by Lisa Fitzgerald

ISLA March volunteers remodel Jalapa library

By Gloria Karl

Another great trip to Jalapa with a great team. Many laughs and a lot of accomplishments. The construction team did much work on the library. Putting up supports to hold up the rood, then tearing out siding and walls, taking down huge support beams and replacing them with steel beams. Putting in new concrete around the base, amazed the sand was loaded by hand and delivered by

oxen and cart, them mixed by hand. Tin siding was put up with cutouts for bars/windows. All this done while children studying below. Many times drawing an audience on the street. It may have been their singing of "Sixteen Ton" by Johnny Cash while they pounded cement. Even had time to start work on the spiral staircase. The guys made good friends with Carlos (Jalapa contractor/minister), who invited the

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ISLA'S mission is to partner with communities in Latin America through health, education and construction programs to become self-sustainable.

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Share your thoughts, memories, photos & reconnect: to ISLA friends

Jan. ISLA team goes to the top

School construction, scholarships & medical programs rank up there

It may not have been the Sound of Music that January, 2012 ISLA team members heard during seemingly continual rainstorms. But mud, dangerous mountain roads and other obstacles didn't stop a 25-person team that included eight St. Olaf College participants from having a successful trip.

Included in highlights was construction of a two-room mountain school at

San Rafael, giving out of over 120 scholarships to local students, pap smears for nearly 100 women and medical information and education programs for many hundreds more.

The San Rafael project may have been one of ISLA's most challenging ever, considering the rugged terrain, lack of electric power and other factors. But the team pressed on with help from



Ribbon-cutting at San Rafael school climaxed almost two weeks of back-breaking work by ISLA and Nicaraguan volunteers. Photo by Blair Fowler



Dan Kramer, Kabou Thao and Xeemee Yang work on San Rafael School walls (above) while Dr. Therese Zink lectures to Nicaraguan war veterans, their wives and daughters (below.)

Nicaraguan volunteers taking time from coffee harvests and funding from Perkins Trucking and other U.S. backers.

The medical team and education volunteers also did more than their share, bringing aid and hope for a better future to Jalapa an women and others.

St. Olaf students got hands-on looks at Nicaraguan public health and social service operations. They plugged in where needed and sampled life as well as healthy quantities and a trip to a coffee plantation.



Lu Lindstrom was all smiles as ISLA scholarship recipients were honored with families in attendance during a Sunday afternoon ceremony.



A scholarship recipient receives congratulations from St. Olaf students Justin McClelland and Madison Kubis. Photos by Jon Kerr

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team to his church Saturday evening.

We were greeted by Carlos and many others. We were introduced each by name and the sermon was translated for us. Many more greetings after the services. Great experience.

Christina, Judy and I worked with the Women's Federation seeing patients for pap smears and consults. Our patient total was not high but the contacts and experience was meaningful. Judy was in her glory holding babies while moms had their paps done and holding the hand of nervous first time women. Judy was also my file person, keeping the paper work in order. We made three trips to rural communities of San Rafael, working in the new school build by the January team, a beautiful view, as well as Lemonera and Tauquil.

One day Lisa and Judy were at the veterans clinic, testing and distributing reading glasses to those who indicated to the October team that this is what they needed. 100 pair were taken and 74 were fitted. We also had prosthetic supplies, many new stump covers, prosthetic limbs. Many amputees were fitting for proper fit. I had acquired these supplies from a long time bilateral amputee friend of mine. She had three full sets of prosthetics. I think these will be appreciated by the veterans.

Christina and I had the opportunity to meet with the new Jalapa clinic

director, Dr. Tania Libertad Tercero. Dr Tanya said, "If we had a good relationship with Dr. Ramon Ivan, she wants us to have as good or even better relationship going forward between Jalapa and ISLA."

We talked about supplies, their request was for nebulizers, respiratory equipment, suction for surgery - it so happened the very supplies I had with me. They were surprised and very appreciative.

A couple of funny experiences: Gordie was going to the bathroom, was surprised by a HUGE toad in the toilet. Then Christina and I decided to soak up some sun one afternoon lying on the



The remodeled Jalapa Public Library takes shape as the March team ISLA volunteers rebuild outside walls (murals will remain) and inside support beams which will allow the second floor to again be usable and well-lit. Photo by Lisa Fitzgerald

cement slab outside the hospital. When we opened our eyes the vultures were circling our trip back, we encountered a long, road block so we did some off-roading to get around. Thanks Javier!

Our free day was at Selva Negra, again a beautiful place, a restful and informative experience. Another great trip, thank you for the opportunity to lead this great team!

Join ISLA for music & fun!



Robert Everest -

Guitarist/singer/composer whose music is performed in multiple languages and styles. In this fundraiser he will include a song from Nicaragua that he learned from the locals on an Isla trip to Jalapa in 2001! That song "Palomita Guasiruca" is featured on his first of five CDs which will all be available for purchase. For more info visit his site at www.roberteverest.com.

**Saturday, June 16,
6:30 - 9 pm**

House concert at Van Toor home
123 Isabel St. W.

\$20/\$10 student ID

Fundraiser for Interfaith Service to
Latin America (ISLA)

**Silent auction, cash
bar /free snacks**

**RSVP/info jon@isla.cc or
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ISLA
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Remember ISLA in your giving legacy!



With your help ISLA has already made a dramatic difference in the lives of the people of Jalapa and other Nicaraguans. As we sustain and build on those efforts your ongoing support is more important than ever.

Please consider the positive impact your legacy gifts, bequests by will or trust, IRA, life insurance or other benefit plans could make through ISLA. Contact your planner or we can help find qualified expert advice.

For more info: jon@isla.cc or 612-819-8877



**You can make
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Your donation of any amount (gifts of \$50, \$100 or \$200 suggested) always have impact through ISLA's medical, education and construction programs.

Send your tax deductible contribution to:

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