



insider

**Volunteer Update
July 2008**

Interfaith Service to Latin America

P.O. Box 50715

Minneapolis, MN 55405

Phone: 612-819-8877

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www.isla.cc

OCTOBER TEAM DEADLINE APPROACHES!

The next opportunity to travel to Jalapa, Nicaragua with an ISLA team is rapidly approaching! Please consider making plans now to join ISLA's next journey to Nicaragua from October 11 – 22, 2008. The deadline to register is August 1, 2008.

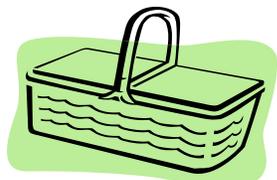
In addition, plans are already in place for four new service opportunities in Jalapa during 2009 (see below). Invite family members and friends to join you in partnering with the Nicaraguan people!

The Trip Brochure and Application may be downloaded from the website www.isla.cc. You may also find information there about the new trip discounts.

| Trip dates for 2009 | Trip deposit and registration for group airfare due |
|--|--|
| January 14 th to January 25 th | October 1, 2008 |
| March 25 th to April 5 th | December 1, 2008 |
| June 16 th to June 23 rd | March 1, 2009 |
| October 12 th to 23 rd | July 1, 2009 |

We Love Our Volunteers!

Please look inside for your invitation to a picnic in celebration of ISLA's many dedicated volunteers. Mark your calendars and be sure to join us for this very special day! Don't miss it!



OUR MISSION

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

Board Members

Anne Meyer Ruppel, Chair
Katherine Schill, Treasurer
Dean Neuburger, Secretary
Dan Kramer,
Construction Program Director
Bob Mullin,
Education Program Director
Peter D'Ascoli,
Medical Program Director
Dwayne Cowdin
Nancy Carlson
Tom Cooper
Rick Panning
Lu Lindstrom
Michelle Murphy
Glenn Punchocar
Dave Dexter
Don Pavek

Administrative Director
Jean Kennedy

Program Coordinator in Jalapa
Javier Eduardo Aguilar Cordoba

Newsletter Editor
Jan Foley

ISLA Needs You!

ISLA welcomes all volunteers but we are in special need of health care professionals who are interested in collaborating with the local health care team and/or experienced in health education. Spanish is helpful, but not essential, as interpreters are provided.

**Physicians – Dentists - Nurse Practitioners - Physician Assistants
Nurses - Psychiatrists - Psychiatric Nurse Clinicians
Family Physicians - Internists**

- To work in ISLA's women's health care program performing colposcopies and/or LEEPs and perform Pap smears.
- To work in ISLA's mental health care program to assess patients with mental illness, many with depression.
- To provide health education to women in the community on topics such as cervical cancer diagnosis and treatment, sexually transmitted disease, self-esteem, healthy relationships, domestic violence and depression.
- To help develop a new dentistry program, including dental education.

Administrative Help Needed:

- Individuals with marketing skills to help design and update the ISLA website and brochure.
- Individual able to assist with data entry into a new donor database

If your talents, training and willing heart are drawing you to help further ISLA's work, please contact Jean Kennedy, ISLA's Administrative Director, at 612-819-8877 or by e-mail at jean@isla.cc for more information. Thank you.

ISLA Board Begins New Year

- Many thanks to outgoing board members **Mary Carlson** and **Wayne Kivell** for their dedicated service to ISLA.
- A warm welcome to new board members **Dwayne Cowdin**, **Peter D'Ascoli M.D.**, **Lu Lindstrom**, **Bob Mullin** and **Don Pavak**. We also extend our sincere appreciation to second term board members **Dean Neuburger** and **Michelle Murphy**.
- New officers for the coming year include **Anne Meyer Ruppel** (*Chair*), **Kathy Schill** (*Treasurer*) and **Dean Neuburger** (*Secretary*). We thank you for your willingness to serve!

Yes, I would like to support ISLA in partnering with the people of Jalapa, Nicaragua!

___ Please send me information about upcoming trips to Jalapa.

___ Please send me more information about ISLA's programs.

___ Please send me information about making a gift of appreciated stock.

___ Enclosed is a donation:

\$500 \$250 \$100 \$50
Other _____

**Check Payable to ISLA
P.O. Box 50715
Minneapolis, MN 55405**

Name: _____

Address: _____

ISLA is a 501(c) 3 charitable organization and contributions are tax deductible.



School for El Junco Community, Jalapa Built During ISLA Mission Trips January 17-23, and March 22-31, 2008

Text and Photos by Dean Neuburger

Through contributions of ISLA volunteers, donors and community members of the Jalapa school area, enough expertise, materials and labor were available to build a new school during the January and March 2008 mission trips. The school will be used by 120 students from approximately 85 families residing in the two surrounding communities, El Junco and San Francisco. Volunteers from these communities worked with volunteers from ISLA during a total of twelve days to construct a building with three classrooms. A latrine was also built nearby.



The construction began with choosing an ideal location in a pasture, which also serves as a baseball and soccer practice field. A two-room building was formed and the roof trusses were put in place during the final day of the January team's visit.

Concrete was mixed by hand to form the foundation and build the walls. The cement and block were purchased by ISLA. Roof trusses were built and installed. The collaboration of ISLA volunteers and El Junco community volunteers was needed to complete all work. The experience was wonderful for the friendships created and the success of the project.

Between the January and March teams' visits, the residents of El Junco and San Francisco applied termite protection to the trusses and installed roof panels with materials purchased by ISLA.

During the March team trip the collaboration between ISLA volunteers and El Junco volunteers continued. A classroom was added and a latrine was built. An inauguration ceremony was held during the afternoon of the March team's final workday. Many families attended. The children in the photograph below will attend the school this year.





ISLA Celebration Picnic

ISLA wants to thank you for all you have done - to celebrate and remember the many ways you have shared your time and talents to the people of Jalapa both at home and in Nicaragua. We could never be where we are without you and your gifts of dedication and service!

Please join us **Sunday, July 20 from 4:00 to 8:00 pm at the home of the Don and Bonnie Pavek.**

While we won't have Mama Chunga, we are thrilled to have Chef Donatillo and Chefette Bonnatilla cook some delicious nibbles on the grill! We ask that if your last name ends in **A-L bring a salad** and **M-Z bring a dessert.** Beverages and dishes will be provided. A short **program will occur at 6:30 pm.**

Please RSVP as soon as possible so our host and hostess have an idea of numbers – however, if you won't know for awhile or forget, we want you to come as we hope to have a great turnout!

Nancy Carlson
nancyccarlson@gmail.com
Home: 507-645-8411
Cell: 507-301-9649



Directions to Paveks
1404 Mayflower Dr.
Northfield, MN 55057
35W South, Exit Hwy 19 to East, Right on Hwy 3 at first stop light, **Left on Woodley at second stop light, Left on Spring Creek Rd, go ¼ mile, Right on Mayflower Dr up small hill, Left on Mayflower Drive, 2nd house on left. Or: 52 North, Exit Hwy 19 to West, see bold above.**

Two Good Summer "Reads"

The first book is School House in the Clouds, written in 1964 by Sir Edmund Hillary, the first man to climb Mount Everest. Some time after his historic climb Sir Hillary is talking with one of his Sherpa guides, "Tell us, if there were one thing we could do for our village, what would it be?" The guide's immediate response, "We would like our children to go to school. Of all the things you have, learning is the one we most desire for our children." Sir Edmund built a school for that village, part of it with his own hands.

Three decades later Gregg Mortenson, a homeless "climbing bum" (his own words) failed in his attempt to climb K-2, also in the Himalayas, and considered the most dangerous peak in the world. Separated from his climbing team, he is rescued from the mountain by his porter who finally finds him. He recuperates in a remote mountain village. Three Cups of Tea relates his experiences not only in building a school for that village but in founding an organization which builds and supports hundreds of schools in the remote, high valleys of northern Pakistan.

Both of these books tell of the immense challenges and immense rewards of helping a greatly disadvantaged people to obtain learning for their children. They are indeed a good read.



Submitted by Bob Mullin

In the Service of Life reprinted from *Noetic Sciences Review*, Spring 1996

In recent years the question *how can I help?* has become meaningful to many people. But perhaps there is a deeper question we might consider. Perhaps the real question is not *how can I help?* but *how can I serve?*

Serving is different from helping. Helping is based on inequality; it is not a relationship between equals. When you help you use your own strength to help those of lesser strength. If I'm attentive to what's going on inside of me when I'm helping, I find that I'm always helping someone who's not as strong as I am, who is needier than I am. People feel this inequality. When we help we may inadvertently take away from people more than we could ever give them; we may diminish their self-esteem, their sense of worth, integrity and wholeness. When I help I am very aware of my own strength. But we don't serve with our strength, we serve with ourselves. We draw from all of our experiences. Our limitations serve, our wounds serve, even our darkness can serve. The wholeness in us serves the wholeness in others and the wholeness in life. The wholeness in you is the same as the wholeness in me. Service is a relationship between equals.

Helping incurs debt. When you help someone they owe you one. But serving, like healing, is mutual. There is no debt. I am as served as the person I am serving. When I help I have a feeling of satisfaction. When I serve I have a feeling of gratitude. These are very different things.

Serving is also different from fixing. When I fix a person I perceive them as broken, and their brokenness requires me to act. When I fix I do not see the wholeness in the other person or trust the integrity of the life in them. When I serve I see and trust that wholeness. It is what I am responding to and collaborating with.

...We cannot serve at a distance. We can only serve that to which we are profoundly connected that which we are willing to touch. ...We serve life not because it is broken but because it is holy.

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Reflections of a Volunteer



*By Claire Abbott,
March 2008 Team Member*

This was my fourth visit to Jalapa. It was my daughter Jillian's second. I must say this trip was the most enjoyable and rewarding. I'm not really sure why; maybe it was because of our previous visits to Jalapa and going back to a familiar place and seeing old friends. But one of the big reasons for the success of the trip was the team that we traveled with. It was great to go with families, one or both parents, aunts and uncles and their children, all of whom were of high school or college age.

Everyone on the team worked hard during our stay and got along remarkably well. We had daily work schedules – the construction team worked on building the El Junco School, part of the medical team traveled to different area schools to teach the students and women about communicable diseases and depression, another part of the medical team worked at the Jalapa clinic and also set up day clinics in the outlying areas to do pap smears and take care of other needs that arose. I feel we made great accomplishments during our stay in Jalapa.

The best part of the trip was the dedication of the El Junco School on our last day there. Parents and children from the surrounding area came to participate in the dedication of the school. There must have been over 100 people attending, including the group from ISLA. It was very satisfying to see the happy faces and the excitement of the children, fathers and mothers, knowing that they will have a new school to attend in a few days.

We spent a week in Jalapa working, as we all know the people of Jalapa do appreciate everything we do for them. Jillian and I look forward to making another trip back to Jalapa in the future.