



ANTICIPATION OF THE FUTURE

El Porvenir

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Jenna Saldana, 2008 in the Ciudad Dario El Porvenir office just before going out to visit communities.

Greetings from the New Development Director

Hello!

I'm so excited to write this letter because it means I'm getting back to my passion of working on clean water for villagers in Nicaragua as the new Development Director of El Porvenir. My history with El Porvenir goes back to 2003 when I began as a Brigade Coordinator in Nicaragua. I was the guide and translator for our work trips, leading many of you on water, sanitation, and reforestation projects alongside villagers. It was the most amazing job because the projects improved the lives of hundreds of villagers and it meaningfully changed the lives of those who came to Nicaragua to work on the projects. *(If you've never been on one of our work trips, please sign up to go! It's an amazing way to see Nicaragua and make a lasting difference in the lives of an entire village.)*

I, then, worked almost three years more for El Porvenir in the U.S. I've been gone from EP for 2 ½ years, but the hard life of the villagers and the great need for clean water haven't been far from my thoughts. Many villagers desperately want to improve their lives by building a well, latrines, or a wash station. With your help, we can continue to partner with villagers to meet this ongoing need.

I've had the pleasure of meeting many of you and I look forward to re-connecting with those I know and meeting those I don't yet know. I would love to hear from you, so please take the time to welcome me back at 303-861-1499 or send me an e-mail to jenna@elporvenir.org.

Thank you for sharing my passion for clean water,

Jenna Elisabeth (Merritt) Saldaña

See the man in the red shirt who has descended the ladder to hand dig this well in Lomas de Café?



The View from Here - From Director Rob Bell—Managua, Nicaragua

June 2009

Dear Friends,

Last month the air was filled with dust and plants were dry and brown. The EP truck drove on dirt roads where inches of dust slop out from under the tires and a cloud of dust marked our progress. We have been working frantically to finish projects before the rains began, knowing that the roads may be impassible and digging wells will become impossibly dangerous (see photo at left).



At least one person is needed at the top to pull out the buckets of dirt. Campamento, El Sauce.

(Continued on page 2)

(Continued from page 1) **View from Here**

Now the rains are starting and everyone knows that soon the world will be washed and the land will be covered with a carpet of green.

El Porvenir feels the same expectation as we have endured the early 2009 difficulties in the economy and politics of Nicaragua and of reduced donations in the U.S. We stand at a turning point. Our anticipation is heightened for the coming months not only by the hope of an improving economy, but also the return of Jenna Elisabeth Saldaña to El Porvenir as Development Director this month.

At her suggestion, we are making this newsletter a plea for your help in completing the financing of a water and sanitation project for Payacuca in Terrabona. This is a gravity flow water system and latrines that will serve more than 800 people. The estimated cost of completing the water system and some of the latrines is about \$95,000 and we have already raised about \$48,000.

Consider a "welcome-back-Jenna donation" for funding the Payacuca Project. Read the story to the right, about Santo and Angela Zamora, to understand the anticipation and reason for celebration with each new latrine, well or tap completed.

Thanks to the help of people like you, we will continue to provide **Clean Water for Nicaragua** and see the dream of better health realized.

Executive Director,
Rob Bell

Putting the finishing touches on the well skirt, Cerro de la Cruz.

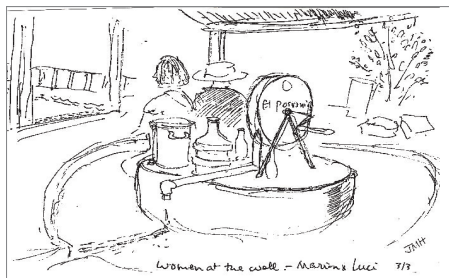


Photo by Nick Donati

Sketch by John Hoyte

TYPICAL OR PRIVILEGED?

Many families in Nicaragua do not have the privilege of a latrine. Santos and Angela Zamora are typical of many in their community. Santos works with the other men of the area, mostly on larger farms as seasonal laborers, thus the work can be irregular and demanding. It pays \$2.50 a day and may include three meals of beans with a tortilla, since the employer knows the worker may have no food at home. Angela is typical of many wives in helping to provide by planting a few vegetables next to the house, a one room home of wood and block with a dirt floor.



Santos Zamora

In a land where single mothers are so common, Santo's dedication to his family is demonstrated by the stair-step children, age 2 to 21. Their community of Cerro Colorado is in the cool, steep, wooded terrain of coffee country. Because their water comes by hose from a small stream, it is easily contaminated by the lack of latrines. Families simply went into the woods to go to the bathroom. At the request of its residents, this little community was chosen by El Porvenir and funded by Pura Vida for a latrine project in 2008. (EP hopes to provide cleaner



The Zamora family has two latrines due to the size of the family.

water to Cerro Colorado as well, one funding opportunity fell through in 2009, but we are ever optimistic for 2010.) Santos described how the latrine has reduced the sickness and disease and

changed their economics. "The sicker we became, the more we had to spend on medicine that we could not afford." Angela tried to communicate the sense of increased personal esteem and safety she feels to have the privacy of a latrine, especially for her daughters. "We are so proud and thankful for the protection of our lives. We want to tell the donors we know the sacrifice they must make to help poor families like us."

-Santos and Angela Zamora

Dear El Porvenir Staff,

My husband and I used to give to many charities; then we fell in love with the Nicaraguan people. Now we ask three questions: (1) Are critical needs being met? (2) How much of the contribution goes to the project? (3) What will show in ten years?

El Porvenir comes toward the top of the list. What is more critical than saving lives of children who must drink from a rusty, parasite-infested water barrel? Diarrhea is a killer for the little ones! New community wells provide a most basic human need – clean water.

Any organization that is able to spend less than 20% of its budget on administration is admirable. El Porvenir's 2007 audit shows an excellent 83% going toward projects. El Porvenir's limited staff empowers communities to self-help, thus keeping costs amazing low.

Will results be visible after ten years? We have driven down the dirt roads past the wells with their rope pump heads painted with the El Porvenir logo, some almost worn away with time. Women nearby are doing laundry, not in a muddy river on a rock, but in sinks under a roof, chatting with women. Shack after shack have their own sanitary latrine with the El Porvenir logo. Green hill-sides are protected by inhabitants who have nurtured the baby trees that cover land once denuded by chopping for the cooking fires while new cooking stoves help protect those hills. All will stand in testimony for the past and future.

Everyday the mail brings new requests to support good causes, be we strive to discover the best, the most worthy. Thank you for the work you do to provide the best.

Sincerely,
Richard and Romona Baker

Richard and Romona Baker have visited Nicaragua for over ten years, leading more than twenty groups for several NGO's to do water projects, help build houses and work with rural school teachers.

The Songs of Camoapa

Dusk deep enough for the thin moon to plead *Look! look!*.
The sky is salted with stars and their white *Wink, wink*.
Vroom, vroom goes the ancient taxi down the cobbled hill.
Sweet, sweet, sobs the bird in the mango tree.

The plantains in the fry pan spatter *Spit, spit*.
Good red beans and rice beckon *Feed, feed*.
Chruk, chruk, the scrawny chickens peck underfoot,
But the bird in the mango tree shrills *Sweet, sweet*.

The bony barn cat stalks the alley--*Yowl, yowl*.
Lurch, lurch, sways the truck up to the work site.
The bones in my back whimper *Ugh, ugh*.
Sweet, sweet, sighs the bird in the mango tree.

The saw bites the plank in two directions--*Ta-co, Ta-co*.
Crunch. Crunch, mutter shovels heaving gravel,
then *Swish, swish*, as the water makes cement.
Sweet, sweet, calls the bird in the mango tree.

The hammers on the nails pound *pom-pom, pom-pom*.
Cock-a-roo-roo declares the rooster on the hill.
Rattle, rattle, rattle, fume the wind-dried palm fronds.
Sweet, sweet, sings the bird in the mango tree.

Hola! Hola! shout the children of Lomas de Cafen.
Water from the new well gushes--*Drink. Drink*.
Gracias! Gracias! cry the women with their washing.
Sweet, sweet trills the bird in the mango tree.

Luci Shaw

Poem and sketch below done by husband and wife John Hoyte and Luci Shaw while in Nicaragua on an El Porvenir work delegation in March 2009.



The quarry behind our hotel. Camoapa - on our last day. JMH 3/16/09

Sketch by John Hoyte



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Girl at well being refurbished at San Luis school in El Sauce .

Wish List

Ink cartridges HP #21, 22, 27, 28, 96, 97 printer cartridges
Computers for Nicaraguan/US offices
Airline miles donated for staff trips
Digital cameras (3MP and up) to take project pictures
Winches for trucks
Notify Alexis at 303 861-1499

"Brick by Brick, Side by Side"

Enjoy the video prepared by Roger and Lani Jo Leigh. It will make you ache to join a brigade to work with El Porvenir in Nicaragua. See it on www.elporvenir.org or at a link to El Porvenir's entry in the National Geographic "Geotourism Challenge." You can leave your comments on the site to "vote" for El Porvenir.
<http://geotourism.changemakers.com/en-us/node/23048>

2009 to 2010 Trip Schedule

A Big Thank You goes out to our Friends of El Porvenir groups.
Oregon FEP, thank you for hosting an El Porvenir table at the Earth Day fair in Portland, potluck party for Rob & Jo, and EP display at the ministries fair.
St. Paul's, Bellingham FEP, thank you for raising \$7,920 at your annual beans and rice dinner, and much appreciation to everyone who extended hospitality to our staff with true Pacific Northwest style.

Dates	Project	Region	Availability	Cost per person
Aug 9 to 18	Lavandero	Camoapa	OPEN	\$950
Oct 3 to 12	Water/Sanitation, Elderhostel	Contact Elderhostel	Contact Elderhostel	Contact Elderhostel
Oct 3 to 11	Lavanderos	Unassigned	OPEN	\$950
Nov 7 to 16	Lavanderos	Dario	OPEN	\$950
Dec 4 to 12	Poetry and Passion: Art and Culture	Many Towns	OPEN	\$1350
February 13 to 23, 2010	Birding	Many Locations	OPEN	\$1200