Mission
Transformed, impassioned and guided by the Holy Spirit, the Nicaragua Covenant develops and supports programs of compassion, justice, and mercy that enhance the lives of our brothers and sisters in Nicaragua.

Vision
We envision a Nicaragua where all life is valued equally and the basic rights of human dignity, health, and education are available to all.

A message from Executive Director Dan Dolan

A Year of Turmoil, Triumphs, and Transitions

The Nicaragua Covenant (NC) supports the UN’s Sustainable Development Goals 2030 to alleviate suffering and bring dignity to impoverished people in the Western Hemisphere’s second poorest country—Nicaragua—where 68% of the population struggles to survive on less than $2.00 a day.

2015 began with unexpected news that we had lost a major donor, and the year ended with all of our mission programs still meeting the needs of those that we serve. A strategic reassessment of our programs led the NC to conclude that providing those we serve with a holistic solution of improving access to health care, clean water, sanitation, and community education would be our major focus in 2015 and beyond. This effort was supported in large part by
the NC’s Amanecer Mobile Health Clinic (AMHC) that serves 30 isolated communities. The clinic provides life-saving access to health and dental care, and 12 of 30 communities are augmented by NC trained community health workers. A focus on eliminating parasites began in late 2015, and is already showing a significant impact on community health.

In 2015, the NC increased efforts to support the growing Evangelical Methodist Church (EMC) in Nicaragua by adding five additional EMC communities to the AMHC’s rotation. The AMHC uses the EMC church facilities for tending to the physical health of these communities, and this has made the EMC a central resource for the entire community.

Clean water and sanitation projects were completed in 3 communities. These projects were completed in 50-50 partnerships with community members and Volunteer in Mission teams from the US. Work projects included the installation of low fuel stoves, the delivery of water filters, construction of new latrines, and community education.

Our first year of operating the beautiful Quinta Amanecer mission house allowed the NC to host hundreds of mission team members from all over North America and provide them with a safe and meaningful mission trip experience.

The turmoil and triumphs of 2015 gave the NC a renewed vision in ways that we can continue to serve our neighbors in Nicaragua. I believe that we have grown wiser and stronger from the experiences of the past 12 months. As the NC steps into its fourth decade we will do so knowing that our roots are deep, our vision is clear, and our spirits are strong, but we need your help to continue this work.

We are grateful for your continued support and prayers as we continue our mission journey.

Dan Dolan
Executive Director
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<th><strong>UNITED NATIONS</strong></th>
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<td><strong>Agenda for Sustainable Development</strong></td>
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<td>Ensure healthy lives and promote well-being for all, at all ages.</td>
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<td><strong>Clean Water and Sanitation</strong></td>
<td>Ensure availability and sustainable management of water and sanitation for all.</td>
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<td><strong>End Hunger</strong></td>
<td>End hunger, achieve food security, and improved nutrition and promote sustainable agriculture.</td>
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<td><strong>Gender Equality</strong></td>
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<td><strong>Quality Education</strong></td>
<td>Ensure inclusive and equitable quality education and promote lifelong learning opportunities for all.</td>
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<td><strong>Partnerships for the goals</strong></td>
<td>Revitalize global partnerships for sustainable development.</td>
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**NICARAGUA COVENANT**

**2015 Achievements**

**Access to Medical and Dental Care**

The Amanecer Mobile Health Clinic visits 30 rural villages and barrios, delivering quality health care to people with no other access to health services. The clinic provided 17,060 medical and 2,876 dental visits in 2015.

**Clean Water and Sanitation**

Tested water quality in 30 communities and selected La Conquista and La Trinidad for our next water projects.

**End hunger Rice / Soy Packets**

Provided 70,000 nutritious rice/soy meals for 450 elementary age children in six communities and one meal a week to 80 seniors in one community.

**Women’s Self-sufficiency**

Supported sewing schools in Managua and Colonia in their mission of providing students with marketable skills. Forty students Graduated in 2015.

**Schools Teachers Scholarships**

Funded 13 teachers in 6 primary schools teaching 780 children. 25 High School scholarships. 20 University or Tech School scholarships.

**Partnerships For The Goals**

Christian Aid Ministries
American Nicaragua Foundation
Nicaragua Ministry of Health
Father Fabrettos, Gudoian Foundation, Freiss Foundation, UMCOR, GBGM, New England UMC Churches
INTERVENTION AREAS
Nutrition

We feed the hungry...

$2 provides 10 rice/soy meals with supplemental vegetables.

Nutrition not only sustains life, it enables children to attend school to learn. For many of the children the school meal is the only meal they will receive that day.

Feeding programs in:
- Israel Galeano,
- Lomas de Guadalupe,
- Samaria,
- Cincoyo
- NITCA
- Las Flores

Feeding Seniors in
- La Cruz Verde

In 2015 our Nutrition program continued to provide 1350 nutritious meals every week.

We serve 450 children in 5 villages plus NITCA with 70,000 meals a year.

We provided 4,000 meals to an Elder Program in La Cruz Verde.
We educate children... as a way to create hope for impoverished people confronting a systemic lack of opportunity.

The covenant has been supporting education for 24 years. Three of the children we have been providing support for at Fundacion NITCA since their preschool days are now enrolled in engineering programs at the university level.

Schools are located in:
Cincoyo
TipiTapa (Camino a Emaus)
Maranatha
La Cruz Verde
Los Laureles Sur (NITCA)
Ciudad Sandino (El Nazareno)
Employable Skills

Helping women gain self-sufficiency

In 2015, 40 women graduated from our programs, equipped to start their own business out of their home, join a sewing co-op, or find employment in the Free-Trade Zone. The graduation certificate is their key to employment and a better future for their families.

The sewing machines now in use are old and require frequent repair. You can be a blessing to a school by a gift of $200.00 for a new machine.

Students practice their sewing skills on newsprint paper since fabric is expensive. The schools rely on mission teams bringing fabric remnants. Colorful cotton prints are really appreciated.
We heal the sick...

$6 provides a patient with a doctor or dentist and medications for one year.

The Amanecer Mobile Health Clinic (AMHC) provides basic medical & dental care for over 45,000 people in 30 barrios and rural communities. The clinic employs a Nicaraguan staff, which includes a doctor, dentist, nurse and pharmacy tech/driver.

The clinic visits each community on a regular 6-week schedule.

The AMHC uses a holistic approach to medicine by focusing on the specific needs of individual communities. To help empower the communities to have some control over their community health, 24 volunteer community health care workers (brigadistas) have been trained and provided with small community pharmacies. The brigadistas are also trained in providing community health education as well as first aid, and basic health testing.

In 2015, together with the brigadistas, the AMHC established wellness programs for diabetes, hypertension and maternal/infant care. The brigadistas were trained in looking for the symptoms of diabetes and hypertension as well as given the training and tools for screening for these diseases. Maternal clinics, and prenatal vitamins were given to pregnant women as well as new baby clinics.

A one-year program to totally eliminate parasites in 12 communities was also initiated late in 2015 and the results have so far been very promising. In addition to mass drug administration and extensive community education, other factors were evaluated for each community such as water quality, sanitation and availability of shoes, particularly for the children. Providing latrines and high tech water filters has significantly enhanced water and sanitation quality in some of the communities. Shoes provided by our mission partners in Nicaragua help prevent the spread of earth borne parasites.

The expansion of the brigadista training program has been delayed since the end of 2015 due to a lack of dedicated funding. It is hoped that sufficient funding can be obtained in 2016 to enable us to continue this extremely important component of our comprehensive health program.

Teaching dental hygiene
Contaminated water is the 2nd greatest cause of infant mortality in the world. Our testing identified 21 (of 30) water sources contaminated with *E. coli* in the communities served by our mobile clinic.

Every day, people like us have to drink, cook and bathe in contaminated water. No wonder parasites, diarrhea and urinary track infections are among the top 5 curative illnesses in Nicaragua.

As part of our village health improvement programs we partner with the NGO *El Porvenir and Pura Vida Agua* to bring clean water to rural villages.

The small mountain village of *La Conquista* is our next water project. The community well is contaminated and there are private wells at some of the homes. This will be our pilot project for village-wide home water filters. Each of the 100 homes will receive a filter capable of producing 17 gallons per hour of pure water. For $47.00 you can provide a family with pure water.

Poor sanitation is frequently a major contributor to illness. As part of our village health improvement program we address sanitation issues by providing a double pit latrine for each home.

A contribution of $450 provides one family with their own double pit latrine.

Upper respiratory infections are very common in the villages our clinic visits. Improved cooking stoves burn less wood and are vented through the roof, reducing the incidence of the problem. A donation of $160 provides a family with a new stove.

Reforestation

The environment has been heavily damaged by excessive woodcutting. A donation of $60.00 provides materials for a hardwood tree nursery which will protect the watershed and provide a supply of nutritious fruit.

We give clean water...

$47.00 provides a family with clean water.

The Sawyer Water Filter

*Water & Sanitation*
Hospitality

We take in mission teams…

Quinta Amanecer which became fully operational in 2014, hosts mission teams from the US and Canada. It is also home for classes training Nicaraguan Community Health Workers. We serve old friends and new visitors to Nicaragua and were privileged to host several teams from NGO Free The Children in 2015.

♦ In July a team of high school students from Warren, Ohio worked at Fundacion NITCA where they installed a ceiling in the pre-school building and painted 2 buildings on the campus. After completing the NITCA work they traveled to Matagalpa, hiked 2 miles up hill and planted 100 hardwood trees to protect the watershed.

♦ All teams also visited long established projects including: our Mobile Clinic, water & sanitation projects, NITCA, sewing programs and schools. The first time visitors were amazed to see how tangibly Nicaragua Covenant projects touch the lives of a people struggling to survive on less than $2 a day.

In April a team from Trinity UMC, Springfield MA, visited El Bijague. A team from the Plymouth MA UMC had previously provided a well and latrines there. Trinity followed up with 21 of the new improved cooking stoves, which burn less wood and are vented, reducing smoke in the homes, a cause of chronic upper respiratory infections. Some of the women report reduced lower back problems, due to the new stoves being table height vs. the floor level stoves they replaced.
Sister Churches

We walk humbly, hand-in-hand......

Living Faith UMC in Putnam, Ct. has embraced a connection with the AICN church in San Rafael del Sur since 1999. Since that time many friendships have been forged. The congregation has:

- Sent 6 mission teams.
- Sent four students to the University. Funded scholarships for 48 students who attend Charles Wesley School.
- Built a kitchen at Barrio 18 de Mayo.
- Built 3 classrooms at the Charles Wesley School which educates 160 children.
- Built an Education & Worship Center in San Carlos, a sister church of San Rafael del Sur, with support from a Spirol International grant.
- Provided the school with whiteboards, fans, desks, and chairs. Provided school supplies each year. Built bathrooms & sinks.
- Built a water distribution system for times the primary supply is shut off.
- Paved the school play yard to keep children clean during rainy season.
- Supplied 3 new computers for the Computer Classroom.
- Provided Christmas gifts and food each year for children in Lomalagro and Los Naverettes.
- Supported Dr. Alina Sanchez’s medical ministry to San Rafael del Sur and surrounding communities.

San Rafael del Sur

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- Built 3 classrooms at the Charles Wesley School which educates 160 children.
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- Built a water distribution system for times the primary supply is shut off.

Aldersgate UMC, Chelmsford, MA has had a partnership with ministries in Nicaragua since 1985. The church provides scholarship support to children at the Sierra Maestra School, and raised funds to replace a section of the school’s roof.

The Brunswick UMC in Maine is connected with the AICN congregation in Coyusne.

The Weston UMC in MA has provided financial assistance for the children and teachers at the Maranatha School for many years.
Global Partners

Equip mission work...

MINSA—Nicaragua’s Department of Health is assisting to make our health services mutually beneficial in rural villages and urban barrios.

Non-Government Organizations

Christian Aid Ministries (CAM)—is a Mennonite mission serving physical and spiritual needs around the world. In Nicaragua, CAM supports 24 clinics with over-the-counter drugs and supplies.

El Porvenir is a non-profit based in Colorado, but all their work is in Nicaragua. Executive Director Rob Bell’s engineers have designed and overseen installations of three of our water / sanitation projects.

Religious Organizations

New England Conference of the United Methodist Church — whose capital campaign purchased the first Mobile Clinic truck and continues to support other Covenant programs.

General Board of Global Ministries of the United Methodist Church provided a grant for the Mobile Health clinic

Philanthropies

Gudoian Family Foundation — transformed the vision for a mobile health clinic into a practical reality in 2007 and continues to support basic clinic operations.

Friess Family Foundation — purchased our second clinic truck, and provides training & essential medications for health care workers in each rural community.

The American Nicaraguan Foundation (ANF) works though strategic partners to reduce the impact of poverty among the poorest sectors of the population. ANF provides our clinic with medications which they valued at $31,200 in 2015. Looking forward ANF is interested in jointly sponsoring clean water and sanitation projects across Nicaragua.

Father Fabretto’s offers educational, health, nutrition, and community development programs that benefit more than 12,000 children. Our Covenant buys nutritious rice/soy packets as needed directly from Fabretto in Managua, saving us the time, cost, and difficulty of packaging, shipping, clearing customs, and storing these food packets.

El Porvenir is a non-profit based in Colorado, but all their work is in Nicaragua. Executive Director Rob Bell’s engineers have designed and overseen installations of three of our water / sanitation projects.
The Board of Directors works hard to minimize the Administrative Overhead. This expense, totaling $33,393 in 2015, represents 9.2% of expenditures for the year. Overhead includes: Operational Expenses, our part-time Executive Director salary and travel, Publicity, Wire Transfer, and Misc. expenses.

Your donations are making a difference in the lives of so many people who are trapped in the cycle of poverty. You can help them achieve their long term goal of reaching self-reliance.

By improving health care, and childhood nutrition and by providing educational opportunities, the Nicaragua Covenant is moving the yardstick towards self-sufficiency in the villages we serve.

Donations can be made online at our website:

www.nicaraguacovenant.org

Donations can also be made through any United Methodist Church by designating Nicaragua Fund 803.
BECOME A BLESSING

Health

$6 funds 1 patient with a doctor and medications for 1 year.
$5 buys 1 child vitamins for a year.
$20 funds prenatal checkups for 1 woman.
$60 buys 1 adult drugs for 1 year for diabetes, cholesterol, or blood pressure.

Clean Water and Sanitation

$47 provides a water filter for a family.
$160 funds 1 vented stove for a family.
$450 funds 1 double-pit latrine.
$1,300 rehabilitates a contaminated well.
$3,000 provides a new well.

Nutrition

$2 provides 10 nutritious meals.

Gender Disparity

$8 funds a sewing student one month.
$20 maintains 1 machine for 1 year.
$30 buys 1 roll of paper for patterns.
$60 provides a new sewing table.
$250 buys 1 new sewing machine.

Education

$10.00 a month supports a high school student.
$100 will support a teacher for a month.
$400 provides a teacher with a full set of books.
$1800 will replace a leaking roof.
$5,000 will totally renovate a school.
NICARAGUA
COVENANT
STAFF

Evelyn Forbes
Mission Director

Verania
Clinic Manager

Johana
NicAruga
Covenant
Staff

Neville
Hospitality Mgr.

D. Ana,
Dentist

Pastor,
Driver &
Pharmacist

Dr. Maria,
MD

Dr. Carla
Assistant Accountant

Velkis,
Nurse

Medical Records & Pharmacy

William
Mission Driver

Karen
Assistant

Kenia
Accountant

Renya
Cook

Johana
Cleaning
SO many to thank!
Many thanks to all the churches and individual donors who have contributed over the past 30 years and to new donors... witnessing or serving as nothing less than the hands of Christ... to oppressed neighbors in a distant land.  *Mucho Gracias!* 

Philanthropies
Gudoian Family Foundation
Friess Family Foundation

Donors (In Kind)
Christian Aid Ministries
Many UM churches
American Nicaraguan Foundation

Board of Directors
Kathi Peterson, Treasurer (2002)
Richard Rinker, Health Clinic (2007)
Sandy Melius, Co-chair (1993)
Joanne McNally, Water (2008)
Sandra Collins, PR (2014)
Gwen McGrath, at Large (1995)
Rev. Steve Melius, at Large (1993)
Sara Parker, at Large (1999)
Through the Prophet Isaiah, God said:

“this is the Covenant I require of you...
break the chains of injustice,
the bonds of exploitation,
the yoke of oppression...
share your bread,
open your homes,
clothe the naked...
never evade your responsibility for ALL my people”