



November  
2016



## *Finding something new in the reflection*

I found a new wrinkle in the mirror this morning. I'm going to blame it on the mirror.

It's time for a more 'solid' reflection. I hope you'll indulge in my reflections on the last season, and find something new-and good. Here, you'll read some brief stories about the mission teams that headed south this fall, as well as some interesting tidbits.

We're excited for the little ones

that 'graduated' from our **Best Start in Christ** program this month. They're now off to formal pre-school and elementary school. A number of women are winding up their year of **Building a Better Future** for themselves and their families having learned new skills and receiving basic business training. A number of improvements have been made at the **Skylark Retreat Centre**, particularly in security

and the kitchen. And we were excited to have **Mauricio Manzanarez** in Ontario for a long-overdue visit!

We're proud of our partnership with **VELA Ministries** and the work that continues with church leaders in Mexico.

It has been a blessed season.

Now, as we enter what is typically the 'giving' season, Giving Tuesday (November 29), and year-end present

opportunities to consider donating to charities. See the article on our website at <http://threefold-ministries.org/index.php/news/announcements> for more details. There are many worthwhile things to choose from! Thank you for considering Threefold as part of your Christmas gift shopping, or your giving plan.

A Blessed Christmas to you all.

## *"The Doctor is in"*

We are thrilled that we have a dedicated medical team, led by Dr. S. Besh from Memphis, TN, that shows up without fail every year to provide medical attention for those in greatest need. An outreach to area children is led concurrently by a fantastic group of volunteers.

The team of 17 was welcomed to Skylark in September. By the end of their week with us they had seen almost 400 patients, and 68 pairs of reading glasses had been distributed. Children who attended the program specifically for them each

received school and dental supplies.

Much thanks goes out to Jane Ellen, Carol, Dr. Steve, Dr. Robert, Bridget, Dr. Allyn, Millie, Anna, Dr. Shannon, Sundae, Glenna, Debera, Liz, Amber,



Sandy, Shawn, and our own "Fish"!!

## *Conference for Couples*



Multiplication happens when building into the lives of couples in ministry. That's

what the team found when they travelled once again to Skylark to run conferences specifically devoted to 26 couples involved in ministry around Carazo province. A portion

of the teaching was based on Alpha Marriage Course material. Sessions focused on strengthening the marriages of these couples and equipping them to minister to couples in their home churches and communities. Resources were provided to help to take their learning forward.

The feedback received was phenomenal. Please see our video on Facebook which is one of many demonstrations of God's influence on the week. Thanks to Doug, Detra, Bruce, Janice, Helen and Wayne!

## Paramedics are 'in the [fire]house'!



We take our first-response very seriously in North America. We couldn't imagine firefighters needing to solicit funds door-to-door in order to raise enough to buy basic equipment. That, though, is the reality in Nicaragua. A great group of 11

paramedics, and paramedics-in-training, spent a week in October teaching these individuals, and others, things from basic first-aid through to advanced care. We take it for granted that those that might tend to us or our families already have this training.

There, they do the best they can with what they have. This training is invaluable and it's easy to understand the far-reaching implications. Thanks so much to enthusiastic team members Susan, Devon, Brian, Carina, Rachel, Mehrad, Jake, Joe, Tom, Matt and Steve!

## Not THAT kind of fencing...

Swords down! Welders and paint brushes at the ready! November brought the great construction crew from Ontario back again to Skylark. The week was spent building and installing a security fence on a particularly vulnerable edge of the property. It's a

needed improvement for Skylark and for the surrounding community. The group also spent time at the site of a Christian school currently under construction, lending their expertise in a variety of areas. Finally, for those returning to Skylark,

you'll notice some change to the kitchen serving area — it looks great! It's truly amazing what can be accomplished in such a short period of time!

Big thanks to Joe, Peter, Ary, Ed, John, Ray and Fish. Great job, guys!



## Wayne's Word

**Building Community. Empowering Communities. Following Faithfully.** After considerable prayer, discussion and reflection we have chosen this new tag line to reflect what Threefold is all about. As a mission that relies on gathering teams of people to engage in the work, **building community** is key. We may call them short term mission teams but they are really communities of varied individ-

uals who share a common desire to make a difference in a developing country by sharing their gifts and talents. Powerful, impacting, often life-changing community develops during a team's time together. The work that we do is about more than some training, some construction or some conferences. It is about **empowering communities**. Working with locals, responding to needs expressed

by locals we seek to empower them to make a difference in their community. This may be through health education, working with pre-schoolers, or teaching business skills to young women. It comes also through the encouragement, support and training of community leaders in local churches. All of this comes about not by any clever design we may have but by **following faithfully**, the living God who

has founded, blessed and continues to guide this mission. As a Christian, I think of myself as a Jesus follower. The more faithfully I follow Jesus' call to love and to serve God's people, the more effective and impacting is the work. All six words work together to capture the dynamic and multi-faceted work that I believe God calls us to at Threefold. Thanks for joining us in this wonderful adventure!



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### **Building Community. Empowering Communities. Following Faithfully.**

*It's our new tagline. It's what we're about. It's a reflection of our relationship with you and with the incredible people of Nicaragua and Mexico. It's accomplished in a wrapper of faith and love as demonstrated by Jesus Christ.*

*Keep an eye out for more changes to come. The people who need us deserve nothing less than our reaching out on their behalf in the best way we know how. Get connected, and stay connected, to watch what happens next!*