

# Introduction Nicaragua

The National Church of Nicaragua is great at evangelizing and is planting churches quickly, but they need new and young leaders who are prepared to be pastors, and so Wesleyan missionaries went to Nicaragua to start a Bible school to train pastors and other church leaders. Missionaries are also involved in some community health education --teaching poor ladies how to prevent and treat important health issues.

Another ministry strives to meet some of those needs of the poor through giving basic food (rice, beans, oil) and providing some folks with resources needed to make a product that they can

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sell. Funds, through micro financing, are given to help a Wesleyan church members start a business, like a "pulpería" {little store} or "panadería" {bakery} in their home. One local Wesleyan church has started a school to teach women how to sew and bake.



### Flag of Nicaragua

Three bands—  
two blue—two oceans  
One white—land  
Triangle in center—equality  
Five volcanoes—unity  
Rainbow—peace



LANGUAGE  
Spanish  
English  
Meskit  
Indigenous



National Bird: Guardabarranco (Also the name of a type of music)  
National Flower: Sacuanjoche (also known as the frangipani)



**National Sports**  
**Baseball**  
**Football**

Lake Nicaragua is the only freshwater lake in the world with sharks. It is called the bull shark.



### General Information

Custom: People love to set off fireworks on December 25 and January 1 and any other Holiday

### Holidays

September 14 Battle of San Jacinto  
September 15 Independence Day

Weather: two seasons Dry and Rainy

### Key exports

Bananas, Coffee, Sugar, Beef, Tobacco



**MONEY**  
**CORDOBA**  
**21.8 CORDS =**  
**ONE DOLLAR**

**Food Vigoron**  
**made from cab-**  
**bage, tomato,**  
**pork rinds,**  
**yucca**



Can you identify the favorite fruits of Nicaragua?

Ognam, etocoj, odacova, elppaenip, ananab, egnaro niradnam  
To see answers look at page in a mirror.

# Children's Story

## Jairo

Jairo began coming to the Central Tabernacle Wesleyan Church in Managua shortly after it began. He was nine years old. He had accepted Christ as his Savior when he'd visited a different church earlier in the year and heard the Gospel. (Jairo's parents had become Christians at the same time and then they'd all started attending the Wesleyan church together as a family.) The following spring Jairo wanted to be baptized, so at the church's next baptism service in June, he followed Christ's example and was baptized by his pastor, Enrique Montenegro.

As many young people do, Jairo struggled to really live out his faith or to desire to be different from the world. He got himself into trouble at home and church and really struggled to be liked by his peers. His family continued to be active members of Central Tabernacle Wesleyan and his parents took some classes at the theology school here. Meanwhile, Jairo attended Sunday School and youth group when it was offered but was very interested in goofing off and getting attention.

However, in the fall of 2010, his youth Sunday School teacher, Helder, began a competition between the kids to encourage and reward certain disciplines. The kids received points for the number of chapters of the Bible they read weekly, for memorizing Scripture, for teaching the lesson and for attendance. This contest really sparked many of the youth to participate more fully in Sunday School than they had ever done before. It also motivated the young people to get into the Word. Jairo began to read his Bible daily, sometimes up to ten chapters a day. He found that he enjoyed reading the stories of God's work in history. He became interested in following God's rules for living and in behaving and honoring the adults in his life. His grades and work at school improved, his teachers saw an increase in the respect he showed them and his parents reported the rewards of Jairo's spiritual growth and maturity. Jairo is still a typical 14-year-old. At times, he gets distracted in Sunday School by the pretty girls and goofs off with them--but usually he waits until after class. God's work in his life has helped him to be a responsible big brother to both Judith (8 years old) and Jeremy who was born 18 months ago. His parents have publicly given thanks in church for the way the Holy Spirit changed their son.

Please pray for Jairo, that his heart would remain devoted to God and that other young people and children of Nicaragua would see in Christ the answer to the hopelessness and purposeless around them.

# Memory Verse

Jeremiah 32:17

**“Ah, Sovereign Lord, you have made the heavens and the earth by your great power and outstretched arm. Nothing is too hard for you.”**

Footprint Memory Race – Practice the memory verse with the students until they know it fairly well. The teacher will have prepared two sets of footprints, each set having some of the words of the memory verse on each footprint (Go to the Resource section p. 125 for samples of the footprint). Divide the class into two teams, giving each team a set of footprints containing the whole memory verse. The teams will race against each other to see who can lay out the footprints on the floor in the correct order, footprint by footprint. The first team to lay out the verse correctly wins.

# Bible Lesson

## Our Powerful God

Luke 8:40-42, 49-56

Read the above Scripture with the class. Then, hand them copies of the worksheet below, asking them to complete it while reviewing the story in their Bibles. Later, discuss the questions and answers with the students.

Jairus

synagogue

daughter

dead

believe

wailing

eat

crowd

laughed

1. Jesus was welcomed by a \_\_\_\_\_.
2. Jairus was a ruler in the \_\_\_\_\_.
3. Jairus asked Jesus to come to his house because his \_\_\_\_\_ was dying.
4. **Jairus' servant told him that his daughter was** \_\_\_\_\_.
5. Jesus told \_\_\_\_\_ not to be afraid, just \_\_\_\_\_.
6. When they got to the house, many people were \_\_\_\_\_.
7. The people \_\_\_\_\_ at Jesus when He told them that the girl was asleep.
8. When Jesus healed the girl, He told the parents to give her something to \_\_\_\_\_.

### Discussion

- How do you think Jairus felt when he heard that his daughter was dead? Have any of the children experienced a death in their family? How did that make them feel?
- Why do you think the people laughed at Jesus?
- This Scripture shows us that Jesus is concerned for, and loves, children. (also read Mark 10:13-16) Can the children mention ways in which they **have felt Jesus' care for them?**
- This Scripture also shows us the amazing power of God. Nothing is impossible for Him. Can the children share ways in which they have seen or experienced the power of God?

"The Laughing Game".

**A child throws a rag or something up in the air. While it's up** there, everyone has to laugh, but when the person catches the rag, everyone has to stop laughing. If someone keeps laughing, they're "out" and have to "serve a punishment". You play until about 5-6 people are "out." The "punishments" go something like this:

- to sing a song and dance to it in front of everyone
- to act something out, such as an elderly person walking with a cane & hunched over
- to act like you are asking parents for forgiveness
- to pretend you are doing your homework
- to cluck and walk like a chicken
- to act like a frog
- to run around like a horse, etc.
- make up as many punishments as you like and put them in a basket for the children to draw from. Be sure to come with ideas that are fun and funny.

Continue until there is only one child left. That child then is the one throwing the rag and the game begins again.

Game Time



# Time for Prayer

A. Ask God to provide food for the thousands of very hungry people who have very little money and have part-time or no jobs.

B. Pray for the street children who beg at the traffic lights and live on the streets. Ask God to protect them and to move the church and the government to care for these children so that they might have homes and food to eat.

C. Pray for the Nicaraguan Wesleyan schools. Pray that more American families would sponsor children at these schools, so more kids could be helped and could come to know Jesus and how he can change their lives.

D. Pray for the leaders of Nicaragua. Pray that God would provide Nicaragua with leaders who want to lead their country in good and godly ways. Pray that the current President and other leaders would come to know the Lord and be changed by his Spirit.

E. Pray for the housing needs of the poor people of Nicaragua. Pray that God would provide better houses, perhaps by sending Christians to Nicaragua to help build homes for the very poor.

# Activity

## C t i v i t y

### Nicaragua Activity – Bible Verse Search

Make two copies of the two columns of verses found in the resource section on p. 126, Then cut them up and place them in two baskets or bowls. Have the children form two teams and get in a line across the room from the baskets of verses.

Call out a Bible reference from the verses. The first child in both lines must run to the basket, find the verse, and read it out loud. The first to find and read the correct verse gets a point. The children put the verse back into the basket and return to the end of the line. The game continues until all the children have had a chance to read a verse. Verses can be repeated if desired.