

Dear Friends & Family:

I wanted to bring you up to date on what is going on with me. After much prayerful consideration I want to take the next step in my journey as a follower of Christ. I think I have told you about the church I attend, Great Bridge Presbyterian Church.

For the past six years our church has sent a group of people to the mountains of Nicaragua. They work with an American missionary, Jim Hornsby [who has lived there for over 20 years]. And every time I see a team of people come back to the United States with an amazing story to tell about working with Young Life leaders in several towns in Nicaragua.

The leaders have incredible testimonies about the way God is working in their lives, and in the lives of teens in their country. Both pastors go on the trip! Young Life is world-wide and we have some Young Life groups in Chesapeake. Last year our Youth Director and 2 of our local Young Life leaders went on this international adventure.

My friends at church talk about spending a week at *Vida Joven* (Spanish for Young Life) camp. They talk about living with only the very basics, and doing many things by hand that in the USA we cannot imagine doing without a machine. Things like digging ditches, clearing land for a roadway, building houses & fences, hauling rocks, and even washing dishes. All of this work is done to make the camp a place inviting to Nicaraguan children and teens, where they come to play, and experience the love of Christ. They even plant coffee. One of the major sources of funds to help run the camp is the sale of this incredible coffee that is grown at *Vida Joven!*

I would love to bring some coffee back, but that is where I need your help! The trip will cost me approximately \$900. This amount basically covers my airfare. My church picks up the costs of our transportation and room & board while in Nicaragua. So, here is where you enter the picture. I know that every Christmas we get together & exchange gifts. This year, in lieu of a present I am asking you to **consider making a donation** toward my trip. Any amount would be appreciated. You can make a check payable to GBPC, with a note on the memo line noting the funds are for my Nicaragua trip.

Everyone takes tons of pictures. I promise to share the pictures, as well as a first hand look at how Christ is changing hearts & minds in me and in the mountains of Central America.

Together we will also be able to enjoy some award-winning Nicaraguan mountain grown coffee.

Merry Christmas, and may God continue to richly bless you in 2009,