

April/May 2026 update from Bluefields

Hello dear family and friends. I'm finding the time is just flying by. Here we are already into May and me being here in Nicaragua for 9 weeks already.

By now we should soon be going into the rainy season, but at the moment the heat is quite intense. Warnings are out explaining the severity of record breaking heat, which could prove dangerous. It is called El Niño. We are being reminded to drink at least every hour, stay in doors as much as we can, cover up appropriately when going out, don't forget about the animals and look out for signs of dizziness, resulting in fainting or vomiting. The list goes on of dos and don'ts. But then we are told it could turn to heavy rains and flooding. I guess the answer is – Be Sensible....I think I'm learning!



The two wells which were in process are now in use. Water was found at 28 feet in one and the other at 31feet. What a blessing these are to the two families and the community who can access water from these too.

I have received more donations specified for medical work, so I've been busy meeting up with the director and sub director of the hospital to decide what they feel are priorities. Sometimes that's hard when the hospital is in need of so many things. But they decided on air conditioning for two rooms. One in the ENT room where it is very hot and it was felt that working with nervous children it was better for the room the be cool. The other one has been a Godsend for the laboratory where tests were being ruined as they weren't being kept at the correct temperature. The director couldn't express his gratitude enough for the donation.

More money was available which came at a great time. The ENT doctor was doing a procedure of a biopsy deep down someone's throat/windpipe when the tool snapped. There was no budget to replace the kit so no more biopsies in that area could be performed. One has now been ordered and we are waiting for the delivery.



The next priority was a lap top for the maternity department where the head doctor could keep detailed records of the pregnant women, specialising in the unborn baby who has already been detected with abnormalities. I have been able to buy it locally this week and have received a delightful thank you letter from the doctor.

With another donation I've been able to have the air conditioning repaired for the crèche at church. The tots, ranging from 3 months to 5 years have not been in the most comfortable of surroundings when the climate is so hot. But now the machine is functioning again and the babies and carers are enjoying their Sunday mornings.



Next week I'm going to visit the maternity home. I've made up 40 bags of basic essentials and as you know, these are always well received.

I wondered whether the pregnant ladies would like an early morning visit with hot chocolate and cake one day. The nurse agreed that they would love that as long as she could have some too! So this week I went in with one of my volunteers, two large thermos flasks and 50 pieces of cake. In fifteen minutes there was nothing left. I didn't even have time to take a photograph! It was such a joy to see the delight on their faces receiving milky hot chocolate and home made cake. This will just be an occasional visit as I already do 6am coffee and bread one day a week, mid day sandwiches and crisps once a week and the Saturday lunch club. In between all of this I have to concentrate on 100 students, in paying their monthly fees, taking university students shopping for their supplies and attending functions which they are involved in. So I'm aware of being sensible doesn't just mean keeping out of the sun!



This week the children have been receiving their first term exam results and some have done exceptionally well. There are 2 exceptional grades for the high achievers – either being placed on the Honour Roll if their overall average is 85+ and Academic Excellence for marks over 90. For the slow learners, I try to encourage them by telling them if they did their work to the best of their ability, that is fine with me. It's when I get a student who is very capable, failing 4 exams because she talks too much in class that tends to upset me.

One of our 2nd year students at a presentation at university today.

Our scholarship pays for her uniform.

Some of our sponsored students.



All for now. God bless. Love **Margaret**