



# Sheep Not Goats

*First Newsletter in a While...* We've all been very heads-down this year strengthening the infrastructure of the farm, especially the irrigation system and fish production. Some quick updates:



*7-year-old Maria gets help with her reading.*



*Bismarck (below), and Raul (above left), helping Hessel get a roof over his head.*



*Our largest growbed yet, planted just today with Dwarf Cavendish bananas. Now receiving dirty fish water. Another huge effort recently completed for the fish was getting our well back online. Over 200 ft. deep – it was a bear but future work will now be much easier due to the changes that we made.*

## *Tutoring*

Sandy's been tutoring children in reading almost every day. Many children have parents who don't read, and schools provide limited support. When kids fall behind, they rarely catch up.

## *Hessel's House*

Because Sheep Not Goats employs people, we are in a position to help by sending workers out to fix things or do construction work. A recent example is when Hessel, one of our full-time workers, was building his own house. We sent Bismarck and Raul over for a few days to help with some jobs that Hessel could not handle on his own. Try pouring a concrete beam at the top of a brick wall on your own and you will understand!

## *2018 Kids Camp*

The next "Swamp Camp" will be held in January. Officially, this is the last year that professional help will come from the US for this. Our good friend Rolando Obando has been receiving training here and in Georgia at The Swamp. **Thank you** in advance for any donations to support kids going to the 2108 camp in January.

## *Aquaponics Update*

Growbed #3 just came online after some repairs due to concrete shrinkage cracks. We're implementing a new design that allows us to take down one section when there's a problem vs. losing the entire growbed for less disruption and risk to the fish, as these beds clean the dirty water from the fish tanks.

Recently those in charge of the aquaculture unit at the National Agrarian University (UNA) in Managua stopped by unexpectedly. They gave us some good suggestions and also had some nice things to say about what we have done here.

## Recovery from Near-Disaster

Here in Nicaragua, it's common for an extended family to all live on the same plot of land. Sometimes they share ownership, for example if a parent or grandparent left it to the next generation, but if the older family member is still living, all may live on the parent's or grandparents land which will someday be passed on to them.

One of our workers was recently able to save all of his family members from losing their land and homes. A parent had put the land up as security on a very high-interest loan, and was unable to make the payments. There was a very real risk of losing it all, which would have affected 7 adults and 5 young children.

The worker had earned vacation and part of his annual bonus, had savings due to him, and had earned severance after 2-1/2 years of work on the farm. He asked to be able to access all of that, which he did by resigning, after which we hired him back after a short interval. Had he not been earning well and saving, he could not have helped out, and the entire family may have been evicted. He and his wife now hold the documents so this could not happen to them again.

An unfortunate situation, but an example of what becomes possible with a steady income.

## Comings and Goings

Enmanuel Mendoza left his employment on the farm and is focusing on his new business fixing motorcycles, an enterprise that was very much enabled through his work here and the generosity of several of our donors.

Josue Antonio Guerreros Campos is now part of our caretaking staff. He's 23 years old, has a young son, and is a close neighbor of us in the finca.



## Sheep Not Goats

<b>What</b>	US-based 501(c) (3) non-profit
<b>Where</b>	Nicaragua, the poorest country in Latin America
<b>Why</b>	To share God's love by offering help to the very poor
<b>How</b>	Through income from our farm, <i>Finca Buenpaisillo</i> , as well as medical & other forms of support as needed
<b>Help</b>	Visit <a href="http://sheepnotgoats.org">sheepnotgoats.org</a> to make a tax-deductible one-time or monthly donation

*100% of donations goes to worker salaries, medical care, and other areas of our mission. We receive no salary from the non-profit.*



*Enmanuel Mendoza*



*Josue Campos*