

8 Simple Days

By Ryan Elmore

We're home now, and I feel like I'm still struggling to come to terms with the full impact of our vision trip to Nicaragua. We all came home physically very tired, but spiritually uplifted in ways that I never expected. We experienced so much during our eight days at Vision Nicaragua.

We all knew (intellectually) going in that we would be going without many of the aspects of American life that we take for granted, but we were still blown away by the simplicity we witnessed in many of the villages we visited. However, in light of the dirt floors and the open cooking fires, we were amazed by the attitude of the people we met. In an environment where even a simple trip to the market was a task of epic proportions and food is limited to primarily rice & beans, people were uniformly clean, friendly and joyful, especially the staff at the Vision Nicaragua compound.



We realized that despite the hardships that Nicaraguans face every day, life in Nicaragua can represent a simpler, more direct existence. The very luxuries that many of us value most can often serve as a distraction from our relationships with God and the community around us. As we were forced to strip away those distractions, we found time to talk individually with God and to truly hear His words. We experienced the simplification of life, and in doing so we found the enrichment of the Holy Spirit.

Eight simple days have changed my life because I was willing to go, because I had an amazing community supporting me, and because God opened my eyes and my heart.

The true value of a vision trip has been laid before me, and I encourage each and every one of you who feel that small tug at your heart to help a community or country in need to give in to God's will and find out how you can help. Eight simple days changed my life and God wants to do the same in yours.