

Ludem Gonzalez & Family

Life in Nicaragua in the midst of civil unrest



How is your family affected?

My family has been directly impacted by the situation in the country due to the fact that we live in Masaya, the city most affected in all of Nicaragua. The uncertainty and fear is something that we see reflected in our children and in our relatives. It affected us to the point that buying food for our family became a dangerous task. There were many people with weapons that made us afraid. School was suspended throughout the city and my kids couldn't go to classes. We have left the city for the safety of our family, but it was a dangerous trip. There was risk of being attacked. We also took a risk in leaving our house empty. We were not able to see our family that lives in another city (Matagalpa) for more than two months. To hear and see so many stories of wounded people has been hard for us as a family.

How are you continuing to do Young Life?

My area has been strongly impacted, to the level in which no kids could be outside of their homes for many weeks. It was very dangerous to go out and we had to cancel club, camps, Bible studies, and sports events that we've developed in the area as a part of walking alongside kids. It was very painful when the father of one of our leaders died in the conflicts. It was very difficult for our whole team. Kids that went to camp with us in January have been imprisoned, but thankfully were freed two days later. **We have continued doing Young Life in an individual and personal way, visiting each kid in their home.** This has given us an opportunity to know their families better, pray together, grow together, and encourage each other. Young Life continues with the model of 1 on 1 discipleship and visiting kids as often as we are safely able to.

How have you seen God moving?

In the midst of a lot of tension, fear, and frustration, God has been caring for our family and the entire ministry of Young Life. Personally, we've seen God moving in our family deciding to be in the city where He brought us even with so many fears, trusting in Him about our safety and our lives. I've seen God moving in the parents of our kids who give thanks to God that because of Young Life, their children are walking with Jesus. Many of the parents see Young Life as a great spiritual bridge between their kids and God. **I've seen God moving in each of our leaders, who although the situation is difficult, are taking their spiritual life seriously, spending time with Jesus in the midst of the storm.** It encourages me to see how God is moving in their lives and in their families.

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