

we walked through the rubble left from the five days of fighting which caused the death of an estimated 30 people. did we realize how the Lord had protected us. The house where we lived is out toward the edge of the city. It sits on the bottom of a hill. All houses around were marked by bullets. OUR HOUSE WASN'T TOUCHED. From Monday morning to Thursday night we had 20 plus students outside our window shooting with almost any kind of weapon imaginable. Again, our house wasn't touched. Without going into more detail I just would like to finish saying that as we sat in our house, I felt the Spirit of God. I knew that if Matagalpa was destroyed that our house would still stand untouched. I know more than ever before that God lives and that he only wants what is best for all of us."

-Elder Scott Ruppe-

"Our own land lady left her house leaving us without a place to stay. House-hunting is something of a challenge when all the stores are closed and Guardia and students are shooting in the streets. Sister Calderon and I knew of only one place to ask, at Doña Lolita's. She seemed completely non-pleased at the thought of two more mouths to feed. Already having her other bedrooms filled with other boarders, she cheerfully shared her own bedroom with us. She was a true example of Barbara Smith's 'provident living'. For six days of street fighting, she kept 9 people fed and comfortable. She had no obligation of any kind to us; she is not a member of the Church. I don't know where we would have gone or what we would have done without her. I do know she was a blessing from Heavenly Father. I also know I will never read Matthew 25:34-40 without thinking of Doña Lolita."

-Sister Marilyn Moss-

"This day we received instructions to get visas for all missionaries to Honduras. That was done on the 12th. We then received instructions the 13th to change some of those visas. Well, as I had the opportunity to work with Elder Clawson (Migrations), I saw the work of the hand of the Lord. Elder Clawson was sure that it was going to be impossible to change the visas. Sure enough, when we got to the passport office, there were literally hundreds of people trying to leave the country and the workers there were not about to change visas. We ran from room to room trying to find someone that would help us. We were loosing hope when we were inspired to go to the top man. We walked in the door and a man said, 'Yes, what can we do for you?' We couldn't believe what we just had heard. We explained our problem and he said to come back at 3:00 and that there would be no problem. That was the first miracle the Lord performed for us."

-Elder Brian Johnson-

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can not be the same nor can it progress to the heights of its potential without the influence of full-time missionaries.

I thank each one of you personally for your prayers, letters and for volunteering to return to Nicaragua. The Lord has heard us and success continues in our mission although the great mission field of Nicaragua is not being fully utilized. The months of September through November were the highest months in baptisms in the history of this mission with November being the highest month ever. Sister Muren and I thank you and encourage you to not only "lengthen your stride but to reach even beyond." Run rather than walk. Let the urgency of our mission drive us to new personal achievements.

Joseph C. Muren
Mission President

| | JAN | FEB | MAR | APR | MAY | JUN | JUL | AUG | SEP | OCT | NOV | |
|-------------|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|------|
| Honduras | 23 | 38 | 26 | 72 | 55 | 67 | 65 | 72 | 92 | 81 | 151 | 693 |
| Panama | 34 | 31 | 39 | 41 | 52 | 34 | 41 | 45 | 63 | 64 | 44 | 498 |
| Nicaragua | 31 | 47 | 45 | 60 | 34 | 45 | 41 | 41 | 13 | 14 | 58 | 431 |
| Costa Rica | 39 | 29 | 32 | 32 | 24 | 20 | 37 | 28 | 41 | 35 | 23 | 339 |
| 1978 Totals | 133 | 145 | 142 | 205 | 165 | 167 | 184 | 185 | 209 | 194 | 226 | 1951 |

Our goal for 1978 is 2100 or more baptisms. Our total for 1977 was 1814 baptisms.