

ing. Nicaragua was finally at war! Our next thought was how do we get home? We decided the only thing we could do would be to bed down there in the home of the local member. We were startled when a powerful knock came to the door, which was followed by another. We just sat there shaking in our bed! The door was finally opened by the brave soul of little Maritza. We peeked through a crack in the wall and there he stood, over 6 feet tall, 130 lbs., black mustache, and a green jacket, at least a sargent in that so called life saving outfit. We sat stunned in the back room. Then we heard a joyful cry. We couldn't figure out what was happening in the next few minutes which seemed an eternity. We sat not being able to figure what was happening in the next room. We heard the door shut and Maritza came back into the room and told us it was just a friend from out of town who knew nothing of the shooting and bombing. 3:00A.M. We laid back down in our beds and again back to our knees to pray for safety. We knew all we had to do was put our faith in the Lord and all would be well. This experience would always stand as a remembrance in our minds of how fast our lives could be taken, but at the same time how the Lord hears prayers and will answer them and will protect us his servants if we always obey his commandments.

-Elder Craig Smith-

"We visited the Guien family this afternoon. We had some group meetings there so the National Guard was told it was rebel meetings, so they surrounded the house and wanted them to leave. Anyway, one side did. The other side wanted them to stay in. So, since they both couldn't be obeyed, they (Guien family) stayed in. With the results of being shot at, that was mighty scary for them. So they finally came out. The Guardia searched everything. They found some medicine and some boxes and thought that the medicine was for wounded Sandinistas and the boxes were used to transport guns. What really happened was that Guillermo was going to use the boxes brought from work and Sister Guien bought the medicine for herself. Also since they found letters which said "President Guien", then they got some other funny notions. It was mighty ridiculous. They (guardia) took names and addresses to missionary houses in towns like Masaya, León, etc. Guillermo walks around with bullet holes in his shirts too because of what happened. This is what really surprised me about the National Guard of Nicaragua."

-Elder Klay Clawson-

"It became more tense as each day passed. One day we left the house knowing that there was a war and people demonstrating, burning things, and throwing bombs. We passed through the middle of a demonstration. They began to insult us. We walked over flames of fire and they threw dirt at us and yelled things at us. I want to share my testimony that the Lord worked with us so that all of the missionaries could leave. I want to give my testimony that the Lord heard our prayers and helped us in such miraculous ways that I will never be able to explain it.

-Elder Rafael Martinez-

"Bombs, shootings, planes, whistles and other war sounds were the norm in Managua during the night. I saw many streets barricaded or places that had been burned. The burning of tires in intersections was a popular act. But, amidst it all, the church did well. The members in Managua took fast offerings and secured food for their brothers in Matagalpa. The regular meetings went on as usual or people had group meetings in their homes."

-Elder Gerald Shelley-

"I was helping Elder Clawson in Immigrations. We had some problems getting visas changed. We talked to everybody that we knew. We had a chance to talk to one more but we said a prayer first and without any hesitation the guy said come back at 3:00 and we will have them so I saw the help from the Lord. Well, there is no doubt in my mind that the Lord was with us all of the time."

-Elder Kelly Guymon-

"I remember many times I was led by the Spirit to do things that protected us and also helped others. It made me really feel great to know I was in the service of Heavenly Father and that we were fighting for the best cause. I know that the Lord's will will be done and that someday in the near future we will return to do His work. I know that Heavenly Father has a reason for what He had done when he pulled us out. We'll return!"

-Elder David Mecham-