

"After this and the news from other areas, no longer did we walk tranquil. Holes were made by bullets in the walls and the pans hanging in the houses of our investigators. Our branch president and his family were saved by a miracle. A bomb fell right by them and he had his pants torn apart and his wife had her leg burned, but not seriously."

-Elder Fernando Salazar-

"Sunday the 10th we had a very special experience. When we arrived at the house a battle began between the National Guard and the rebels. The machine gun fire and the bombs could be heard everywhere. They even hit our window. We had to hit the ground and look for a safe place. The bombs didn't stop and for a minute I thought we might be in the Vietnam War or the Third World War. The night was a terror. It was sad to hear the cries of the babies and the mothers and see blood everywhere, but the Lord was with us and always watches over us."

-Elder Elpidio Quijano-

"I loved Reparto Schick. It was a great place. I had some great spiritual experiences. The thing that I thought the Lord blessed us with most was always a ride out of our area during the problems. I know the Lord was always with us."

-Elder Russell Barney-

#### MASAYA

"I'll always keep in my memory the vision of the helicopters and planes like dogs following their prey, unceasingly machine gunning and bombing the poorest and most miserable neighborhood of Monimbo, Masaya. I can imagine their straw houses and their destroyed matchbox houses by the footprints of the soldiers; the soldiers taking the young boys out of their houses in Monimbo, telling them to run and then shooting them in the back. I could never imagine such an assassination and then I remembered the massacre of the children in the time of Jesus Christ by King Herod. The whole city destroyed, the people nervous and alarmed, the poor women pushing hand carts carrying their dead or few personal belongings without knowing where they are going to go. It's a spectacle of sick misery. Before leaving, I visited the majority of the members of the church and there was not one misfortune. With them we praised the Lord above because He watches over us and has watched over His people."

-Elder Manuel Silva-

"I have been thinking why so many things have happened here in Nicaragua since it's a pretty land and since it has been a land where blood has been spilt so many times. Even more now the destruction of the city of Masaya. The thieves have awakened, the fury of Satan has penetrated their hearts and he offers them the spirit of destruction. I am tired. I am hungry. I am stunned by the wicked things they do. My insides say the same as John the Baptist, 'Generation of vipers! When will they learn.' The moment arrived when we couldn't stand to see such things. We were dirty and lost our morale seeing the young boys of 15 years old fighting for the liberation of their land."

-Elder Ricardo Selva-

#### GRANADA

"Thursday morning the 14th of September 1978, I received the call that we were to leave the country. I told my companion that we were leaving and at first he didn't believe me. How could this be true? Granada is so peaceful. The work is great. We're going to have baptisms. But it was true and we packed one bag with the things most necessary and left to catch a bus. We waited for an hour not knowing how or if we could leave Granada. Out of the clear blue, a taxi driver came over and offered to take us to Managua for 20 cords. The thing was that he had a special pass to get through the Guardia. Well, we made it to Managua without problems. With all the things that could have happened! I'm thankful to my Father in Heaven for the help He gave us to arrive safely."

-Elder John Chamberlain-

#### JINOTEPE

"We would go out in the morning at 9:00AM, work the entire day, and try to return by 6:00PM at night as there was a local curfew restricting traffic after 6:00PM. But work responsibilities to the investigators and members rarely left us free to leave at 6:00 and we generally found ourselves walking at dusk, or just after dark. The Lord blessed us because