

## LEON

"One night as we approached one such intersection, we were showered by rocks thrown by the youths and told that they didn't want us in their country. We turned and traced our steps back up the street. Not one rock touched us. Twice bombs exploded within ten feet of us with nothing but the air blowing past us. The miracles we saw each day are too numerous to mention. Through it all, we were always protected and though we had to leave most of our possessions behind, I consider myself very blessed and grateful for the many blessings that my Father in Heaven has given me."

-Elder Alan Hilton-

"It was sort of strange walking right through the front lines. Everyone we saw on the streets was armed with a rifle it seemed. The most miraculous thing to me about the whole stay was the way the Lord helped us out. Just as it seemed that we weren't going to make it out, the way opened up and we were able to keep going."

-Elder Wayne Christensen-

"Getting from León to Managua, I would say, was a miracle for us. I was told it would be impossible, but opportunities opened up for us. When we were stopped and had guns pointed at us by the Sandinistas, it was the local Sandinistas that stuck up for us and said, 'It's not the CIA, it's the Mormons.' And we were able to pass without problems."

-Elder Keith Neeley-

"The week of the war is over for us! We are so thankful for the Lord's protecting care over us, during that awful week especially. Our prayers were answered at every turn. When we had to abandon our house, there was a jeep right next door that we had never seen before and the man driving it loaded our things in and took us to the chapel. He wouldn't take anything for it. We had no food and one of the members' families, who are not members, dropped into the chapel and brought us something to eat. No matter who came or went, it had to be between spurts of machine gun and rifle fire. The Elders were able to make their way to the chapel through heavy barricades and fighting without harm. The next morning our good, faithful member José Antonio Berrios led us with his white flag as we walked out of León through villages, fields and rough terrain where we finally reached the highway going to Managua. We had just what we could carry, which wasn't much. We walked as fast as we could for nearly an hour and a half. Finally we saw a bus that stopped ahead of us. When we got to it, it only was going to La Paz about a third of the way to Managua. That helped. When we got off the bus we waited for awhile, then Brother Call saw a man across the street and a car by the house. He went over and talked him into driving us to Managua. Outside Managua, many national guardsmen stopped us, but when they found we were 'Los Mormones' (The Mormons), they told us to go ahead."

-Elder and Sister Anson Call-

## MATAGALPA

"While we were eating dinner, a group of students gathered on the corner outside our house and started their familiar chants. We had an appointment to keep and so above the shouting outside, my companion, Elder Ruppe, offered a prayer and asked that the Lord would protect us this night as we carried out our assigned work. As we rose from our knees, the shouting stopped and the group disbanded. That was one more testimony builder for me of the power of prayer. As it turned out, that was a start of a group of ensuing events which will always be cherished. I really saw the Lord's hand protecting us."

-Elder Scott Kelley-

"The students later the same day set up a machine gun one half block from where we lived which needless to say caused us a lot of worry. Then Wednesday, the city of Matagalpa, on the outskirts, was bombarded from a small airplane of the Guardia Nacional. Ten bombs were shot from that plane. Also on Wednesday, small tanks were brought in and we heard radical fire from their big guns and also from their machine guns mounted on them. Thursday, the down town area of Matagalpa was a scene of destruction, but where we lived, the action had calmed. Friday morning, no more shots were heard and at about 2:00PM we left the house to evaluate our situation and to see the condition of our members and investigators. Only then as