

Greetings dear friends,

November 2020

The light shines in the darkness, and the darkness can never extinguish it. John 1:5 nlt.

In our last letter we wrote to you about how the Light of the Gospel can break through the darkness that so many live in. In this letter we'd like to write about how darkness can come and try to reclaim its territory. So, I'll start with some background. In the mid-1800s Moravian missionaries (the Moravian church is the oldest protestant church) began a work in northeastern Nicaragua among the Miskitu and other indigenous peoples. Then in 1930 Moravian missionaries began a work in northeastern Honduras among the Miskitu. This is when the Light of the Gospel first broke into the hearts of these beautiful



A town underwater



A Miskitu mom and child

people. Debbie and I lived among the Miskitu (in the village of Ahuas) during our first term of service with MAF in the late '80s. The MAF hangars and the Moravian Mission Clinic were right next to each other, and we worked very closely with each other.

Fast forward to earlier this month when a double whammy of tragedy struck these impoverished areas that we and our Lord so dearly love. On November 3rd Hurricane Eta (a category 4 storm) hit the eastern coast of Nicaragua and soon was sweeping its way across Honduras. Then, on November 16th Hurricane Iota (a high-end category 4 storm) hit the eastern coast of Nicaragua with nearly the same trajectory as Eta. The flooding, ruined crops, and wind damaged buildings turned thousands of lives upside down. The darkness brought by these horrendous storms wants to extinguish the Light kindled all those years ago, but it can't—the Light of the Gospel still shines.



Wind devastation

MAF has a Disaster Response team just for situations like these. And so MAF, AGAPE (our affiliate program in Guatemala) are working together with the Moravian church to assess the most urgent needs and to provide for those needs. In the last two weeks, 51 flights have been completed, totaling 57 flight hours. Those flights have delivered 63 passengers and nearly 14,000 lbs. of cargo, primarily emergency food stock. At the



time I'm writing this letter, an MAF plane (based here in Nampa) has landed in Nicaragua and one plane from Alas De Socorro (our affiliate program in Oaxaca where we served) has also arrived to begin providing relief in that country too.

Please pray for the Miskitu people of Honduras and Nicaragua, that they might not lose sight of the Power of the Gospel to save them even in times of distress like these. Pray that they will remember that God has not forgotten them. Pray that their faith will strengthen and grow in the midst of trial. Remember friends, because of your partnership with MAF through us, you are there too.

Thanks so much for being a part of our lives and ministry, friends. We couldn't do this without you. And remember, these stories are yours, too.

Love, *Steve and Debbie*



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