

Friday, April 3

Scripture reading: Matthew 25:40

Three days before his suffering began, Jesus spoke those words in response to the question, "Lord, when did we see you hungry and feed you, or thirsty and give you something to drink? When did we see you a stranger and invite you in, or needing clothes and clothe you? When did we see you sick or in prison and visit you?" I saw the familiar passage from Matthew 25:40 several times, printed on wooden signs, during my recent visit to some of Nicaragua's projects supported by Foods Resource Bank, and I am sure Jesus is smiling as he sees the work being done there with the least of his brothers.

With the help of faith-based organizations of many different Christian denominations, the issues Jesus discusses in Matthew's gospel are being addressed, one community at a time. Hungry and thirsty families are learning better and more diversified farming methods and ways to have clean drinking water, they are being taught not to be strangers to each other but to work together, and their children are healthier because of preventative health care and better hygiene and nutrition. Finally, they are being released from the prison of dire poverty and dependence by being empowered to take care of themselves and their families. Alleviating problems that were caused by greed, warfare, and selfish desires is a very slow process because of the overwhelming need on this earth, but it is up to us, who have been given so much, to help do for the least of our brothers what Jesus would have us do.

Prayer: Heavenly Father, we thank you that you have given us a clear message, through the words of your son Jesus, to assist our brothers and sisters in need. We ask that you give us the passion to feed the hungry, still the thirst of those that do not have clean water, invite the stranger, and visit the sick and imprisoned. We ask you to give us the strength to fulfill your mission during our time on this earth. In Jesus' name we pray, Amen

Written by Rose Moser