

## Mission Partner of the Month – June 2016

# The Peace and Hope Trust

## - serving in Nicaragua

The Peace and Hope Trust has been working amongst some of the poorest and most marginalised communities in Nicaragua for over 20 years.



Over those years, many volunteers have caught the vision to help this needy country. The Trust is active in a range of initiatives, offering many opportunities to serve both here at home and in Nicaragua - a country that is regularly affected by natural disasters, hurricanes, earthquakes, volcanic eruptions, floods and landslides, and remains one of the neediest in the world.

### Peace and Hope Trust Core Activities

#### Construction Projects

With the help of local church and community leaders, we identify what is needed in some of the most marginalised barrios, and our volunteers then work with local people to build community facilities. Typically this might be a small school, clinic or laundry. Our 3-week mission trips are supported by volunteers from all over the UK and around the world.



In July, a team of 28 volunteers, aged between 16 and 69, will travel to Nicaragua to build the second classroom in a school for 150 pupils in Bluefields.

#### Community Building

We build and support vocational centres and community projects, seeking to develop skills and self worth amongst people living in grinding poverty. Our volunteers have the opportunity to share their love and their talents by working with local churches, women's and children's groups to teach vocational skills or help with feeding programmes.



The Mary Anne Vocational Centre, completed in 2012, provides free lessons to local adults in a range of vocational subjects, offering the unemployed a way to earn a small living. The Centre and tutors are financed through the generous donations of many Peace and Hope supporters at home, especially here at St Michaels.

#### Coffee

The Trust's small coffee farm, high in the hills above Matagalpa, produces some of the highest quality fairly traded Arabica coffee, and is available to purchase by churches, businesses and all coffee lovers.

## Humanitarian Aid



Our global recycling programme collects surplus medical and school equipment and ships it to Nicaragua to supply schools, hospitals and communities. Hospital beds and mattresses, wheelchairs and mobility aids, school tables and chairs are sourced from all over the country and stored in our warehouse near Ross on Wye ready for shipment.

Last year we sent eight 40ft aid containers, and are on target for a similar number this year. Our work has grown to such a level that we are now hoping to build a small aid distribution warehouse in Managua, Nicaragua, to streamline our distribution of this vital aid to those in most need.

## Moringa

The amazing Moringa tree is the most nutrient rich plant known to man, and is a superb supplement to poor diets. We aim to educate and make Moringa available to every needy family. Other mission groups have caught the vision too, and we now cooperate with many international agencies to help spread the awareness of this nutritious plant.

## Medical Teams

Many remote villages and communities in rural Nicaragua have little or no access to healthcare, so the Trust organises teams of dentists and doctors to support the local health services and relieve acute pain. Our teams undertake dental health education, but still the emphasis is on extractions as many patients rely on the annual visit of the Trust's dentists.



## Issues for Prayer

1. For the summer volunteer team, preparing to build a second classroom for the Bluefields school. Pray for their safety at all times and for good support from the community.
2. Praise God for the generosity of those who help fund the Mary Anne Vocational Centre, and pray for the students learning life-changing skills.
3. For the Casa Rahab project in Granada, trying to rescue young girls from the evil trade of sex tourism. Pray for Valeria, the project leader as she tries to raise vital funds to keep the project afloat.
4. Pray for more supporters willing to help our work here in the UK. Can you sell on eBay? Source or collect medical or school equipment? Knit teddies for the children visiting the dentist?
5. The Trust is planning to build an Aid Distribution Warehouse in Nicaragua, please pray that the funds will be found. This is a significant and expensive project for us, but will have a massive impact in serving the poor.

**Contact:** To find out more about the Peace and Hope Trust, please visit our website at [www.peaceandhope.org.uk](http://www.peaceandhope.org.uk) or email us at [admin@peaceandhope.org.uk](mailto:admin@peaceandhope.org.uk)

Our link person with Peace and Hope is Janice Wade. She has been to Nicaragua many times, and was the inspiration behind the Mary Anne Vocational Centre.