



MannaMail connects people in the MPI community through bimonthly stories and updates - east, west, north, and south. See the mission act.



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DISPATCH

Program Director Elliot Mitchell took time two weeks ago to interview Olga Florez Blanco, a resident of Cedro Galan and student in MPI's Advanced English class. The "formal" interview, as Elliot described, was a challenge with his Spanish and her English meeting in the middle. Elliot's transcript offers a look into both a Nicaraguan perspective on life and MPI's place in Cedro Galan.

What is your full name?
Olga Deyanaira Florez Blanco

Where do you live?
El barrio Cedro Galan, Managua, Nicaragua

How old are you? I am 22-years-old. How many people are in your immediate family?
There are nine people. I live with my parents, my son, and my five brothers and sisters. I love them very much.

What are some long-term goals that you have for yourself?
In the future, I want to be a judge that focuses on civil law. Specifically, I want to work with human rights issues.

How are you involved with Manna Project?
I am a student in the Advanced English class, and I help teach the literacy class with Manna. Also, Manna Project is helping me with tuition at the Universidad Martin Lutero. I study law.

You said that you have a son. How old is he?
Emilito is 2 years old. Americans would say he is having his "terrible two's."

If you could teach Emilio one thing in the world - only one - what would it be?
To love God. It is the most important thing.

How would you teach him this?
I would try to be a good role model. I want to help other people every day and be a good person.

What do you think about Americans, in general?
I think they are good people and that they want to help poor countries. I think they are tall, too.

What do you think about Manna Project members?
Manna Project is good. The people want to help all they can. They work well with the students and children and provide opportunities to learn English. That is very important here in Managua. I want MPI to continue down here.

If you would like to write Olga, her e-mail address is: (olgadeyanira@gmail.com).

Reported and loosely translated by Elliot Mitchell.

ACT

FROM THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS - On November 15, 2006, Tricia Scoggins, co-founder of MPI, stepped down from the Board, having completed her three-year term. Tricia is graduating from Columbia University in December with a Masters in International Affairs, and will be looking for jobs in Emerging Markets Banking. We are so thankful for all she has contributed to the formation and development of Manna. She will continue to be involved with MPI in an advisory capacity.

CLINIC - We welcome your involvement in the MPI-Hope Clinic project. Please contact us for more information or questions regarding the clinic, your financial contribution, and other ways to support us. Angela Profeta at 772-453-3192 (USA) or angela@mannaproject.org.

SPONSORSHIP - To learn more about sponsoring a Nicaraguan child, see www.mannaproject.org/sponsor/.

DATES

November 6 - Daniel Ortega was elected as Nicaraguan President last week. Former President Jimmy Carter, on his fourth election monitoring trip to the country, visited 24 polling stations during the voting process in Managua saying, "I think almost universally throughout their population, [Nicaraguans] are deeply dedicated to democracy and peace and obviously economic prosperity."

November 16 - African Awareness Week at Vanderbilt. Issues related to African people and culture on focus in Information Fair and Lecture series. Fair begins at 11 a.m. Thursday in the Sarratt Center.

November 16 - MPI Nicaragua takes pre-schoolers to the beach!

November 23 - Thanksgiving!

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