

Dear AMOS Friends,

Everyone deserves to have health and hope, not just during the holiday season, but all year round.

We hope you enjoy these weekly stories, reflections, coloring pages, and prayers, as an expression of our gratitude for all the ways you help share health and hope with people living in Nicaragua.





Thank you for sharing hope, peace, joy, and love with people in need. You make hope happen! Wishing you a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year,

- The AMOS Health & Hope Team





Week 1: Hope

## What do you hope for?

## At AMOS Health & Hope, we hope to create sustainable change for God's kingdom.

We hope to serve some of the most vulnerable people in Nicaragua. We hope to value the strengths of local leaders so they can improve health and save lives in their communities.

#### Community empowerment is hope in action!

You help give people in Nicaragua the confidence that they can be agents of change in their communities.

You give hope to Rosabilda Velásquez, Health Promoter in the rural community of Malacatoya 2, who recently graduated from nursing school! Rosabilda says,

"Becoming a Health Promoter with AMOS motivated me to study to become a nurse. The support I have received from so many people has been essential to helping me complete this process and graduate from nursing school. On behalf of myself and my community, thank you for giving me this opportunity. I thank God that I can now say I am a nurse."



<u>We find hope</u> in unexpected places.

<u>We seek hope</u> because we envision a world of renewed humanity, different from the world we live in now.

<u>We share hope</u> because we know that together, we can work towards building God's kingdom of peace, justice, and love.

When all of our neighbors have food, health care, education, and the confidence that they can create change, we see hope in action.

## Thank you for sharing hope with our ministry in Nicaragua!

## REFLECT:

What do you hope for? Where do you see hope in action in your life? How can you help share hope to create change for God's kingdom?





# PRAY:

God of Hope,

Thank you for showing us hope in action. Thank you for the promise of your kingdom of abundance. Help us walk in the light of the hope you give. Prepare our hearts. Prepare our spirits. Fill us with compassion and strength, that we may seek, find, and share hope through our actions and words. Amen.

Week 2: Peace \*

## What does peace look like to you?

### In living out our Christian values, AMOS is committed to working towards a world of peace.

You help us cultivate communities of peace. Your generosity today is helping to create the tomorrow we imagine. You are training local leaders, some with just a 4th grade education, to treat common illnesses like diarrhea and pneumonia. You are empowering communities to promote healthy behaviors, like drinking clean water and maintaining proper nutrition. <u>You are helping to save lives!</u>

This past year, Evelyn, a one-year-old baby girl in the community of El Bambú, started having febrile seizures. El Bambú is very remote - a nine-hour journey from Managua by truck and then horseback.

Without you, there would be no way for Evelyn to get the urgent care she needed. But because of your support, José Gómez, the Health Promoter of El Bambú, had a stock of essential medications and was there to help.



"Her parents called me at Iam. They thought she was going to die." said José. "I gave her acetaminophen for her fever and wet washcloths for her forehead. It was early morning, and the sun was beginning to rise, but I didn't care. I stayed by her side. And thanks to God, she recovered."

<u>Thank you for caring for babies in Nicaragua!</u> Thank you for helping to relieve families of fear and cultivate more peaceful communities.

Can you imagine a world filled with communities of peace? Where every person has access to health care, and every family has a safe place to sleep and healthy food on the table? Where every young child can reach their full potential? How can we create this peace?

We can grow alongside each other in a garden of shared purpose. A garden where our root systems connect, and God's radiance shines down on us. We shade each other. We water each other. And we bloom and flourish, reaching out to meet the light right where we want and need to.

REFLECT:

What brings you peace? How can you help cultivate more peaceful communities?





PRAY

God of Peace,

We envision a world of abundance and acceptance. Fill us with your Holy Spirit. Renew us. Help us grant one another grace and peace. Let us cultivate a garden of shared purpose, that we may bloom and flourish alongside one another. Amen.

Week 3: Joy

# Children are at the center of the kingdom of God! You help us spread God's love to children who may feel forgotten.

Your joyful generosity means that kids have health care and medicines in their own communities when they get sick, and their Health Promoters are visiting them at their homes regularly to make sure they stay healthy! It means that families can drink clean water and receive nutritious food. And it means that parents can be equipped with the knowledge and tools to help their children have bright futures.

#### Every child deserves to have a bright future!

No matter where they are born, and no matter where they live. We want all kids to know that they are important, they are loved, and God calls them to shine their light all over our world!

<u>Because of you, children are smiling!</u> Laughing! Singing! Dancing! Playing! Reading! Learning! Growing! Joyfully shining in the light of God's love!





Our children remind us to give thanks and be joyful! Be strong! Be empowered! Know that you are important! Know that you are loved! Smile, laugh, sing, dance, play, read, learn, grow, and joyfully shine in the light of God's love!

Our faith reminds us that God is good and generous. God lifts up the vulnerable and the oppressed!

When we practice <u>joyful gratitude</u>, we bear witness to God's limitless love. When we practice <u>joyful generosity</u>, we put our faith into action.

Thank you for helping kids have brighter futures. We rejoice in the ways we are able to create change together in Nicaragua!

REFLECT:

Praise God! How can you practice joyful gratitude? How can you practice joyful generosity?





PRAY:

God of Joy, We praise you for your limitless love! We praise you for your prosperous peace! Fill us with your joy. Open our hearts. Let us reflect on joyful gratitude and respond with joyful generosity. Amen.

Week 4: Love

## "Beloved, let us love one another, because love is from God." I John 4:7

At AMOS, you'll often hear "amor, amor, ""love" in Spanish! Thank you for all the ways you share love with Nicaragua!



<u>You share love with María Eveling</u>, a volunteer Health Educator who has been trained to conduct home visits, carry out glucose tests, take blood pressure, provide essential medicines, and promote behavioral change to help patients with chronic diseases improve their own health.

<u>You share love with Wilfredo Gutiérrez</u>, an II-year-old who lives in the village of Sabalete. Right now, Wilfredo's family cannot make enough money to cover their basic needs. But because of you, they have access to the community clinic in Sabalete, where they can receive free health care, medicines, and food.

<u>You share love with Samara Abigail</u>, who comes with her mom to our Early Childhood Development support group in Nejapa to learn, laugh, read, play, and grow alongside other young children and their moms. With your help, she can and will have a bright, hopeful future!

How can you more intentionally share God's love — a love that is stronger than greed and more powerful than indifference? The need is great. And we need each other. Everyone deserves to have a seat at the table. All are invited and all are welcome. And there is a role for everyone in making sure all are fed.

Thank you for seeing, listening to, and loving the people of Nicaragua! Amor, amor, amor!

# REFLECT:

How do you see God's love in your life? How can you accept love from others more wholeheartedly? How can you share love with your neighbors more intentionally?

UNPLUG:



PRAY:

God of Love, Thank you for loving us so deeply! Awaken our souls. Fill us with your love! Tie us together in grace. Ignite our hearts. Help us to love you, love Jesus, and love others. Amen.