

# Cristo Sana News



## Remembrances from Granada Mission

By Lance Graves

I have been on many optometric mission trips, but none better planned and executed than the one business partners and I experienced on the April 16<sup>th</sup> trip. David Munn administrated the travel, the scheduling, the events and the building of camaraderie amongst a very diverse group beautifully.

Starting each day at breakfast with Father Michael Roberson leading the group in a rousing version of "This is the Day that the Lord has Made" was a great way to prepare us for the challenges ahead.



Many people were "first timers" on this trip, but you'd never have thought so if you saw how each person had an assignment and went after it like they'd been doing it all their life.

The optical clinic was a true blessing to work in with the equipment and amenities provided. Making four hundred people bleed (I was the one assigned to check blood sugar for diabetes) was an interesting assignment, but it was fun to wince after they did and then both of us would have a good laugh. Although one lady *did* haul off and slugged me in the shoulder for teasing her – and then the whole clinic had a good laugh! They are truly wonderful people.

Going to the boys' orphanage one evening and then taking them all to a restaurant for pizza was definitely a highlight of the trip. To see the people I've been working with and the hearts they showed in interacting with the boys was a great way to bond us all.

Going to the girls' orphanage two days later was an inspiration to hear the girls sing so beautifully at the Mass and see them smiling and giggling as our residents passed out T-shirts and amenities to them. Being a father of four daughters, the experience touched me deeply.

The dinner at one of the "Angels" house was great to see all the "Angels" together and see them in a social setting, meeting their husbands and children over an incredible dinner in a beautiful setting.

The three partners of Senior Vision Services have been looking for a place that we can "put down roots" in a mission scenario. I think we've found our place.

Thank-you to Christ the Healer for making that happen.



Lance Graves | Partner  
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[www.seniorvisionservices.com](http://www.seniorvisionservices.com)

**Mission  
Dates**

**2016**

Click 2016 for application form.

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## Mission Statement

Christ the Healer is an ecumenical medical mission program of the Archdiocese of New Orleans called to serve the people of Nicaragua. In the name of Jesus Christ, it aims to improve the quality of life and physical healing in a partnership of ministry. Employing a holistic approach to mission, it seeks to develop an appreciation for the people and culture of Nicaragua. Christ the Healer provides an opportunity to evangelize through the medical, dental, and social ministries, as well as an opportunity to be evangelized through this same service from the people of Nicaragua.

We're on the Web:  
[www.archnomo.org](http://www.archnomo.org)

## Julie Gravois, RN

From April 18 to April 22, I had the honor of serving with 22 other healthcare professionals and/or individuals treating the needy in Nicaragua. These dedicated individuals volunteered at three separate clinics each day, seeing a wide variety of medical conditions. Many of the ailments we could treat but a few of the patients were referred to hospitals.



Throughout our time in these clinics we were assisted by several "Angels". These Angels were wonderful Nicaraguan women who came to these clinics with us and checked people in as well as interpreted for us. We in no way could've succeeded in accomplishing all that we did without these amazing ladies.

One morning, the travel clinic's van got stuck in the sand on a beach road. Apparently this beach road was a smoother ride than the actual road. While we were trying to figure out how to get ourselves unstuck, several individuals came along and all stopped to help us. With the help of these wonderful people, we were able to get the van pulled out and the travel team was on our way.

Every day we gave all the toothbrushes and the over-the-counter medicine that people donated as well as lots of prescription medications. The needs were so great sometimes I just felt we couldn't do enough.

We also visited a Boy's Orphanage and a home for girls. The Boy's Orphanage was run by some very caring and faith-filled men. And the Girl's Home was run by nuns with Mother Teresa's Missionaries of Charity. Both places demonstrated how great the needs of the children are in this part of the world.

I do plan to return ...

### **New Requirements for Nursing staff.**

**Health Ministry of Nicaragua now requires that all nursing volunteers submit a copy of their: Diploma, current license, and a CV and any other certificates that have been issued. To verify the current license you will also need to provide us with your password so Health Ministry can verify the document.**

**We apologize for any inconvenience. All documents are required to be sent to the mission office 45days prior to trip.**

**Helping Hands of Christ the Healer—the May trip has been cancelled for 2016.**