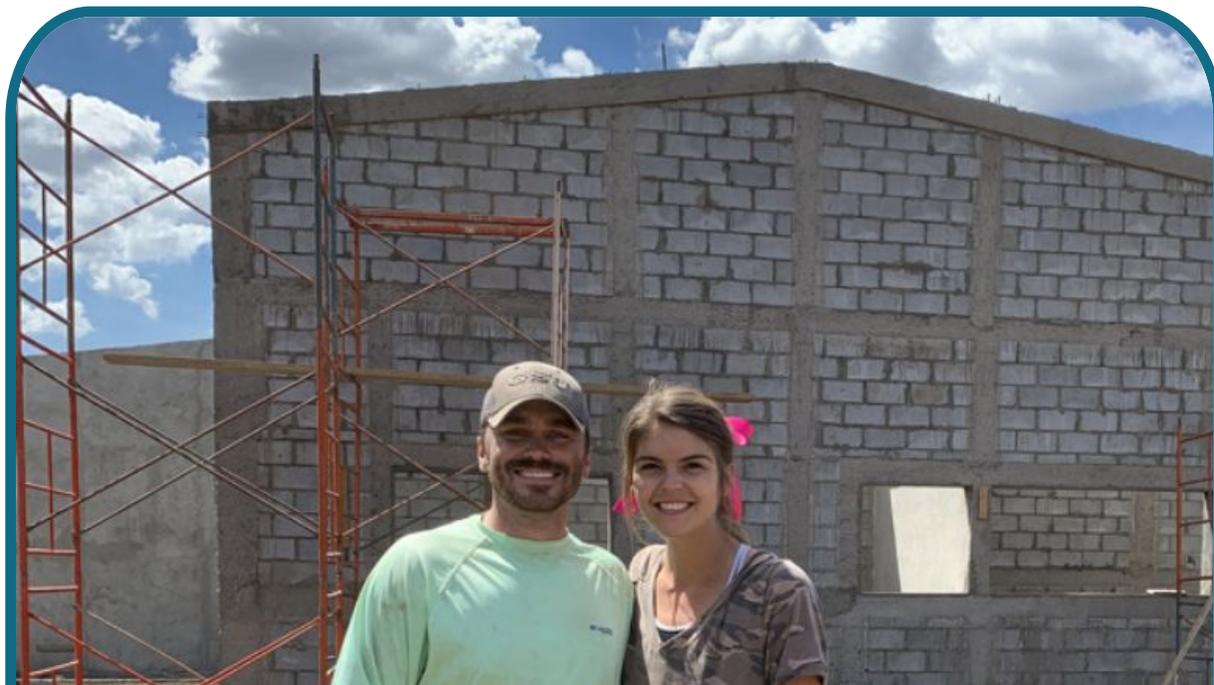
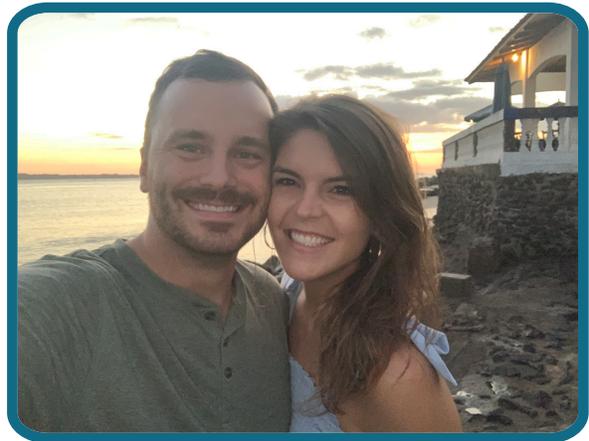
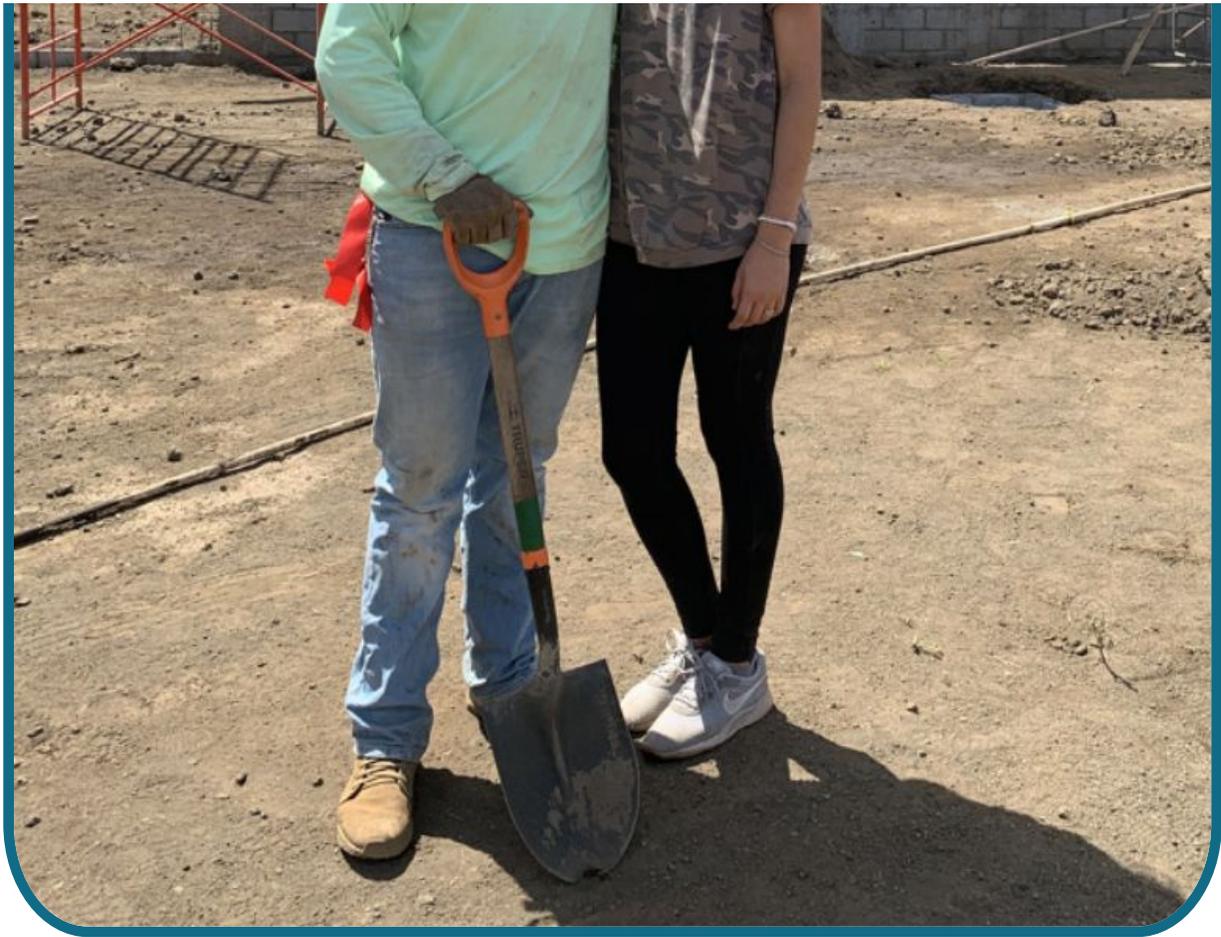




## BRANDON & ANNA WALKER MARCH 2021

*May God be gracious to us and bless us, and make His face to shine upon us,  
that Your way may be known on earth, Your saving power among all nations.  
Let the peoples praise You, O God; let all the peoples praise You!*  
Psalm 67:1-3







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## Frequently Asked Questions

We've decided to do something a little different this month and answer some of the most common questions we receive from family and friends! Thank you all for your unwavering love and support.

### **How have you grown spiritually since moving to Nicaragua?**

**Anna** - God is showing me what it actually means to relinquish control, trust in Him, and understand that He is enough. Living in the States, I found myself saying, "God is enough," but needing many comforts to fall back on to give me peace and affirmation - my family, my friends, my job, my hobbies, my busy schedule - the list goes on. Here, with all of my safety nets stripped away, my life is truly in God's hands. "You'll never know that Christ is all you need, until He's all you have. And when He's all you have, you'll find out that He truly is all you need."

**Brandon** - God has led me from the complicated and theoretical to the simple and practical. Being in a new culture and speaking a new language really makes you slow down, and this has helped me tremendously in my own study of His Word and in my desire to teach this Word to others. God has challenged me this year to focus on the basics of the Christian faith - to clearly explain them and to faithfully practice them. While I certainly still have a long way to go, I am so thankful for the opportunity God has given me to see His Spirit working through His Word in His people.

### **If you could go back and tell yourself one thing before your move, what would it be?**

**Anna** - I would definitely tell myself to not spend \$300 at Target buying 2 years worth of shampoo, conditioner, and soap. They have all of that stuff here... Also to just chill out. Herschel will be fine.

**Brandon** - Relax. Stop trying to figure everything out and stop trying to be in control - you're not. Also, learn the word *chunche* - it's basically Nicaraguan for "thingamajig" and you're going to use it in every other sentence until your Spanish catches up.

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**In what way have you seen God's faithfulness?**

**Anna** - God is a "very present help in trouble." (Psalm 46:1). He hasn't made all of my problems disappear, but He has used these problems to mold and shape me. He has given me comfort and strength, demonstrating His faithfulness every day.

**Brandon** - Anytime we step out of our comfort zones, God calls us to put our faith into practice. This has certainly been the case for us over the past year. There were times in the months leading up to our move where fear and doubt crept in, and I found myself questioning the decisions that we were making. Each time, it seems like God would give us just enough faith to trust Him through the next step, and then the next, and then the next. Looking back, I think this is exactly what God desired from us then, and I think it is still what He requires from us now - faith for the next step.

**What is a cultural difference that you love, and what is a cultural difference that is difficult for you?**

**Anna** - I have a love/hate relationship with the same cultural difference. Here, people are on “Nica Time,” which translates to whenever is convenient. People are relaxed, and they really embrace a slower pace of life. Some days, I absolutely love it and I see the eternal value in putting people and relationships over progress. However, other days, I am tempted to set the clocks forward an hour and pass out planners and calendars to everyone I see.

**Brandon** - People truly live with open hands and open hearts. Every day I am offered more by those that have less. It is a beautiful thing to see, and a humbling thing to experience. On the other hand, driving is quite a bit different here, and it certainly takes some getting used to. It is like driving anywhere, except there are no rules, few signs, a lot more taxis, dirtbikes, triciclos, and horse-and-buggies. Oh, and people actually use the horn...for everything: hello, goodbye, watch-out, slow-down, and my personal favorite - I’m-pulling-out-in-front-of-you-whether-you-like-it-or-not-so-you-better-slow-down-or-I’ll-take-us-both-out-I-don’t-care.

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**If you could pick one verse that has had the greatest impact on you during your time on the mission field, what would it be and why?**

**Anna** - *Psalm 112:1* "Blessed is he who fears the Lord, who greatly delights in His commandments." A word that I keep coming back to is "obedience." Even when I don't understand, even when I don't want to, even when I think there is a better way, even when I am not immediately seeing the fruit of my labor, I am still called to be obedient. God does not promise an explanation. God does not promise immediate gratification - I mean, Moses didn't even get to see the Promised Land! God DOES promise that His purpose is greater. My Savior deserves my obedience because of the price He paid for me, and it is a joy and privilege to serve Him.

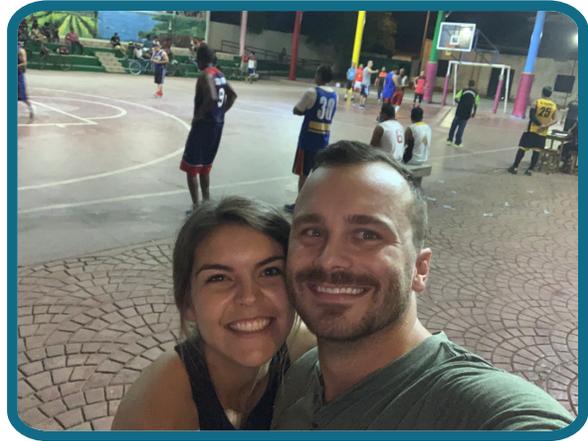
**Brandon** - *Acts 20:24* - "But I do not account my life of any value nor as precious to myself, if only I may finish my course and the ministry that I received from the Lord Jesus, to testify to the gospel of the grace of God." When I reflect on my life, I am struck by how much time I have spent worrying about and focusing on things that aren't necessarily *bad*, but also aren't *eternal*. Facing the constant distractions and competing demands of the world, it was easy for me to get hung up on the *good* things in life at the expense of the *great*, on the *urgent* at the expense of the *important*. For as long as I am here in Chinandega, and wherever God may call me next, I want to focus on the important, on the great, on the eternal. I want to share the good news of the amazing grace of God displayed in the life, death, and resurrection of Jesus Christ my Savior.

**What is your favorite Nicaraguan food?**

**Anna** - I love the fresh fruits here! Currently, it is mango season, and I am obsessed.

**Brandon** - Tostones - which are basically just plantains that are smashed down and fried. They are addicting.

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### What has been the greatest challenge?

**Anna** - For me, the greatest challenge has been realizing how greatly I have been physically blessed and trying to answer the question, "Why?" The reality of poverty and the brokenness of this world hit me HARD when we first arrived. Reading Psalm 67 and understanding that God's blessings to us are not meant to settle on us, but instead to flow through us to help others has really made my purpose here clear. Another challenge is of course missing my friends and family, who continue to be my constants!

**Brandon** - It would be pretty difficult for me to come up with a greater contrast than that between my life as an officer in the U.S. Army and my life as a missionary in Central America. Five years ago, I could have told you where I was going to be and what I was going to be doing for months ahead. Now, I would honestly be lucky to tell you what I am going to be doing tomorrow night. As a planner, this has definitely been a challenge, but I am getting used to it... kind of.

### How is Herschel doing?

**Anna** - He is doing great! He is adapting to the heat, and our neighborhood is dog friendly. He has many *tias* (Nicaraguan aunts) who love him and spoil him even more. We are really happy that he joined us on this mission.

**Brandon** - Well...he's a dog, so he's fine - now officially the most spoiled animal in two countries.

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### Prayer Requests

**Spanish:** Pray that God would continue to bless our studies of the Spanish language and give us confidence to use what we know to effectively communicate.

**Petra:** Pray that God would bless Petra Church that this body of believers can continue to glorify God, edify each other, and reach the community with the Gospel. Pray for the baptism service planned for Easter Sunday, April 4th.

**Discipleship:** Pray that God would use us to make disciples that make disciples so that His Kingdom might multiply throughout Nicaragua. Pray for new opportunities for one-on-one discipleship for both Brandon and Anna.

**Small Group:** Pray for our small group that meets every Tuesday night at our home. Pray that God would use this time to help each of us grow in our relationship with Christ and with one another.

**Amigos:** Pray that God would help us to use the incredible reach of Amigos to allow the love of Christ to shine throughout Chinandega.

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In March, Anna began working one day a week as a Speech Therapist at Amigos

Academy. Throughout the school year, she will be providing strategies for teachers and parents to facilitate improved communication and behavior both in the classroom and at home. She is excited to use her passion and profession in this new role here in Nicaragua!

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**PARTNER WITH US**



Anna



Amigos



Keep Up



Petra



Brandon



Share



Forward

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