



Capturing God's Vision

by Justin McClure, Student Pastor at Beaverdam Baptist Church, Beaverdam

IMAGINE driving along a rocky road and seeing mountains in the distance, yet, the closer you get, you realize they're mountains of trash. Smoke covers the area around La Chureca municipal dump in Managua, Nicaragua. This is the home of 200 families. Children run through the dirt and sewer-filled paths in dirty, stained clothes. Adults and children pick through piles of trash, searching for anything to fill their empty, groaning stomachs. While standing in the midst of fires, smoke, and stench, you look up. Above this horrible place is the most beautiful blue sky you can imagine. Psalm 19:1 comes to your mind: "The heavens declare the glory of God, and the sky proclaims the work of His hands" (HCSB). Surrounded by sorrow and sadness, there is hope and beauty when looking up. Zack Jones, a junior at Goochland High School, experienced such a moment.

A Call to Serve

A group of students and leaders from Beaverdam Baptist Church in Beaverdam returned from a trip to Nicaragua and shared their stories with the church. Before he even arrived at church, God had been working on Zack's heart. "For a long time," says Zack, "God had been showing me that he wanted me to do something. I knew that God was calling me to serve Him somewhere, but I didn't know where." During the mission team's report, God continued to work on his heart. "God spoke to me very clearly that this is what he wanted me to do. I still tried to avoid God, but during my Spanish class the next day, my teacher started telling the class about how they were going to start a Spanish club soon. Our club planned to sponsor a community. I decided this was the time for me to step up and talk to my teacher about raising money for the families living in the dump [in Nicaragua]. The more I thought about it, I realized that God didn't just want me to do something at school; He wanted me to start my own organization to move people out of the dump." Zack went to Nicaragua with his youth pastor and saw the very dump he'd heard about. "As I sat and

thought about everything I had just seen, it took everything I had to hold in the tears. I couldn't believe the life these people lived. I thought about it all the way home and for weeks after. I still think about that place every day."

Helping Nicaraguans

In September 2009, Zack began Blue Sky Ministry and launched a corresponding website, www.bluesky191.com. So far, the ministry has raised over \$5,000! Through these donations, the community received a clean water supply, a bath house, and a toilet. With \$2,800 of the funds, one "dump" family will receive a home, clean water, one acre of farm land as a means of income, and education for the children in an accredited Christian school. The family will also be supported for one year to give them time to get their crops going and find jobs. Zack believes that the Lord is leading Blue Sky Ministry to focus on church planting and literacy for the near future. As Romans 15:4 says, "For whatever things were written before were written for our learning, that we through the patience and comfort of the Scriptures might have hope" (NKJV).

Sharing the Vision

Zack speaks at area churches and to his own youth group on a regular basis. He has taken the vision God gave him and is impacting not only the people of Nicaragua, but also the students in his own youth group. "Zack is being used by God to literally change communities in Nicaragua," says Justin McClure, student pastor at Beaverdam Baptist. "He inspires other students to step up and make a difference with their lives for the cause of Christ. Zack epitomizes what it means to be a student leader."

RESOURCE

■ Websites:

www.bluesky191.com
www.beaverdambaptist.com

■ SBCV Contact:

Call 888-234-7716 for details
 from your region's missionary.

■ Consider:

You're never too young
 to be used by God!

