

## Story of Faith: Judy Davis

The book of Hebrews says, "Now, faith is the assurance of things hoped for, the conviction of things not seen." Webster says, "Faith is complete trust or confidence in some one or something."

Twelve years ago I heard about a ministry that delivered water filters to the most remote areas of Nicaragua. I knew nothing about Nicaragua or water filters but I wanted to be included in the project. I was hopeful and felt assured that this was where I should be. I wanted to "minister" to those poor Nicaraguan people. Little did I know that I was sent to be ministered to. There I came in contact with some of the most faithful, loving people I have ever known. They have so little, they need so much, but when they put their arms around me to love me and pray for me, I unexpectedly experienced the love of God there in the hinterlands.

However it was not always so easy. Visiting the jails of Managua we found the conditions deplorable. There were 20 to 25 men caged in a cell meant for 8. The stench of urine and sweaty bodies was stifling. The guards went before us shouting commands before each cell. We handed each man a sandwich and a juice pack as the guards watched. The prisoners were grateful. Some did the sign of the cross as we gave them food. Some asked for Bibles and some asked for prayers. Some looked angry at the world and scowled at us. We sang some songs in Spanish and English. Suddenly, at the far end of the corridor, something happened. Some of the guards rushed to that end and others rushed us out into the yard. I did not have the "assurance of things hoped for." I did not have "complete trust or confidence in anything." I thought, "All hell is going to break loose, and I am going to die right here in the prison yard." Suddenly, the clamor of shouts and voices began to die down and instead out of the tiny high windows of the cells came male voices belting out "Amazing Grace" both in English and Spanish. My faith was restored. I unexpectedly felt God's love in the very squalor of life.