

Trip Report

Rio Blanco-Ubu Norte Eye

Jan 26-31, 2014

Participants:

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Connie Scharlau
Bernard Ziegeweid
Linda Schaefer
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Ruth Harpstead
Jim Traekenschuh
Brad Martin
Mark Backer
Michelle Ziegeweid
Lilliam Perez
Karen Meza
Moises Guillen

Anne Jilek
Lynn Linzmeier
Joanne Martin
Linda Backer
David Schaefer
Chester Espinoza
Carlos Arguello

Summary: During this trip we saw a total of 2416 people for eyeglasses

Friday, Jan 24: Arrive in Managua on Delta and American Airlines. Check into Las Mercedes Hotel.

Saturday, Jan 25: After breakfast at Las Mercedes, we got the vans from Budget and went to the Managua warehouse to load eyeglasses and equipment. The rest of the day is shopping and getting lunch supplies for the week including wasp spray (requested by Milo).

Sunday, Jan 26: Load vans and pickup at Las Mercedes and head for Rio Blanco, checking into Hotel Bosawas with a short stop at Sebaco to buy fruit.



Monday, Jan 27: After an invigorating shower and breakfast at Hotel Bosawas we go on a scenic and bumpy ride to Ubu Norte. There we set up at a school and saw **454** people—most of whom had never had a pair of glasses.



Tuesday, January 28: Another bumpy ride to Ubu Norte. We are grateful to the mayor for filling our vehicles with diesel fuel. We saw **425** people on another busy day and had very nice hosts. Below, our group with the mayor of Ubu Norte.



Wednesday, Thursday, Friday, Jan 29-31: These days we worked at the Simon Bolivar School in Rio Blanco. We again had good accommodations with excellent local people helping and feeding us. The coffee was always hot and available. We saw about 500 people a day for a total of **1547** for the three days.



As soon as the gringos left, they fumigated all the rooms we had been in.

Miscellaneous photos:



We ate most of our meals at Hotel Bosawas. At breakfast we were served what they were making for the day but for the evening meal we had to decide which we wanted from their menu—chicken or beef.

It was so hard to decide that we finally settled on chicken **and** beef for each meal.



Saturday, February 1: We returned to Managua and Las Mercedes. The eyeglasses were returned to the warehouse. Most of us took hot showers at Las Mercedes but we decided they were not as refreshing as the cold water at Bosawas—we just felt tired afterwards.

We had a nice meal that evening as guests of Jaime Delgado at the El Churrosco Restaurant

Sunday, February 2: Finally, the boss gave us a day off. Nothing scheduled until 10:00 AM and then a trip for scenery and shopping in the Masaya area. Returned to pack for the flights the next day.

Monday, February 3: Another early day (5:00AM) to get to the airport and head back to the also refreshing Wisconsin weather.