

# The DALLAS POST

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SERVING THE COMMUNITIES OF THE DALLAS AND LAKE-LEHMAN SCHOOL DISTRICTS

## Church group on its way to Nicaragua

By AMANDA JANIGA  
For The Dallas Post

Many people encounter human suffering and then forget about it, but not Pastor Jack. He remembers. He has seen troubled lives and horrible living conditions and that's why he's going back - to help.

Jack Rehill, pastor of Back Mountain Harvest Assembly in Dallas, and Ron Hillard are leading a second Medical Mission to Nicaragua.

Last year, the group flew to Managua, the capitol of Nicaragua, then traveled miles to small villages to offer medical help to people living in primitive conditions.

"It was a privilege to set up medical clinics where no one had been before," said Rehill. Most of the people there have intestinal parasites," Rehill said. They deal with tainted food, unsafe water and smoky air and it all adds up to poor health.

One village is at the Managua city dump where people not only live on the garbage, but see it as their source of income. Families scour the dump for items that can be sold or used before setting the garbage on fire, making room for more. In extreme cases, parents sold their daughters to the truck drivers in exchange for the drivers dumping their garbage loads nearby.

Clothing and shoes are scarce and kids run on the burning garbage in flip flops. One little boy walking on the burning garbage in flip flops ended up with a nail through his foot. Other kids have open sores on their feet or plastic melted to their skin.

Most of these people have never left their village; they will never travel to the city and will never get the medical attention they need. This mission offers them help they would never get otherwise.

"People are in need," said Rehill. "We are a church. We can't have the church just be inside the walls. It needs to be out there."

The group will be in Nicaragua from March 5-12. Eleven people went last year, but this year's number has increased to 15. The missionaries will stay at the Buzbee ministry, a facility that offers security and a place to stay each night.

The group will take about 10 medical kits with it, but cannot open the kits until after arriving at the Buzbee facility because no luggage is checked at the Nicaraguan airport and everything is carried on airplanes.

Last year, the group was able to see 400 patients in two days while visiting two different villages. This year it hopes to spread its resources further and visit three villages.

"There are a lot of people in outlying areas that have never been seen by a medical pro-

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Nick Dennis was a flag bearer in opening ceremonies for Cub Pack 281's Blue and Gold dinner. The Dallas pack is celebrating its 60th year.

## Celebrating the Blue and Gold

Cub Scout Pack 281 held its annual Blue and Gold Dinner last Sunday at Gate of Heaven School.

Following the opening ceremony by the Cub Scouts, invocation by Rev. William D. Lewis and introduction of guests by Cubmaster Ron Santora, dinner was enjoyed by all in attendance.

Pack 281 leaders conducted a skit and closing which was followed by presentations of Tigers, Wolf Dens, Bear Dens and Webelos. A special awards and charter presentation concluded the evening.

Den leaders for Cub Pack 281 are Jackie and Jim Siperko, Tigers; Susan and Randy Perry, Wolf Den 3; Lisa and Ted Kocher and Eric Gingo, Wolf Den 4; Wendy Barberio and Kristen Angelicola, Wolf Den 5; Judy and Ron Santora and Mark But-savage, Bear Den 1; Todd Adams, Mark Lofing and Joe Roman, Bear Den 2; Richard Oley, Paul Smith, Brian Josulevitz and Dan Sweeney, Webelos 4; Mike Drouse, William Reynolds, Dave Mallarky, Don Plum, Webelos 5; Carl Baxter, Aaron Butler, Nick Dennis, Tony DiMaria, Dylan Pilger and Andrew Santora, Den chiefs.



Stacey Wyandt attaches a final patch on the sleeve of his son, Josh, before the annual Blue and Gold ceremony for Cub Scout Pack 281 hosted at Gate of Heaven.

## We should be like children when conflict arises

By CHARLOTTE BARTIZEK  
Dallas Post Correspondent

Why is it that children have a better understanding of how to settle their school and playground battles than do adults? These and other questions were explored at a recent presentation by the Father Doyle Peace and Justice Center from Wilkes-Barre hosted by St. Therese's Church in Shavertown.

Children, it seems, have an uncanny knack for being direct, wanting to resolve conflicts and being able to listen to other people. Eighty percent of the time, when left alone, children will settle their problems themselves.

Sadly, though interestingly, when those children reach adulthood, social dynamics change and the result is more unresolved conflict.

"Too many people are fighting and not listening to one another. I am convinced that if people could only listen, we could have more peace," said Pat McCormick, a trained conflict resolution mediator from the center.

McCormick also gave the illustration of Nanticoke school children resolving their feuds among themselves rather than through

teachers or school officials. It worked very successfully, he thought, because the teachers and school officials were not involved.

McCormick and a group of three other mediators then gave a staged sample mediation to a group of about 30 people interested in learning more about solving conflicts - personal and general ones.

The mediators came from The Peace and Justice Center, a group of lay mediators trained in conflict mediation techniques by Pennsylvania Mennonites and Quakers. They unabashedly admit that only one out of 68 cases brought to the center's attention results in mediation, working like a sounding board to help people settle or negotiate their issues.

Thus, the fruit of their work is sometimes less evident and occurs behind the scenes.

Rodrigo "Rod" Gereda, another one of the counselors, was quick to point out that the negotiator's job is to get the parties interacting and then get out of the picture. The negotiator, he says, does not give advice, make judgments or decisions, an impartiality that was emphasized often



Conflict resolution trainer Rodrigo 'Rod' Gereda illustrates the importance of and correct way to issue the 'I statement' at a conflict resolution lecture at St. Therese's Church, Shavertown.

during the demonstration.

The mediator's role seems to have multiple applications, though.

For Philip Kasper, of Hunlock

Creek, a senior business major at Penn State Wilkes-Barre, the talk was the frosting on the cake. Because, as he said, "conflict arises everywhere," he felt the talk was

a sensible requirement for his course in Conflict Resolution and Negotiations at the university and would help him wherever his career takes him.

CHARLOTTE BARTIZEK/ FOR THE DALLAS POST