As we prepare once more for the Pentecost, here is an excerpt from a daily prayer offered by the New England Conference UMC.

*Bring your holy fire upon us this day to ignite a spark of joy in our hearts and our voices. Bring the power of your rushing wind through our spirits that we may be turned in new directions for service and witness.*

AMEN!

#stillinmission

**Dear Friends of Mission in Nicaragua**

My greetings and prayers for the health of your churches and communities. Knowing that the impact of the coronavirus-COVID-19 pandemic is being felt worldwide, I want to express my deep gratitude for the ways you have reached out with messages and prayers of hope and love for Nicaragua and ongoing support for me as your missionary. I know many of you have suffered losses and grieve over the lives lost to this virus and the ongoing social and political issues that continue to require our prayers, presence, gifts and service.

You already know that Nicaragua is a vulnerable place, especially for the poorest people who face great challenges to meet their daily needs and access basic health services. The arrival of coronavirus to Nicaragua has compounded that vulnerability, and it will take efforts from every sector to protect and care for the population.
A street vendor in our neighborhood has pivoted from selling sunglasses to masks and faceshields. Nicaraguans demonstrate resilience and innovation but also need support.

Below you will find a brief update on the pandemic in Nicaragua which is only just getting underway, and an invitation to support AMC in responding through a campaign for PPE and AMC's Advance #14846A. I am mindful that many churches and their members are facing new financial and logistical obstacles, yet I know we are called to walk with our brothers and sisters in creative and hopeful ways that bring about God’s Realm, even in times of crisis. I thank you for your ongoing prayers for Nicaragua and your consideration to give.

The cases of COVID-19 are now more visible in Nicaragua as hospitals and clinics become saturated with patients. As of May 27, the official number of cases are: 759 confirmed, 354 active, 370 recovered, 35 deaths (5% mortality rate). Other tracking sources and our own personal networks suggest that the numbers are much higher and include a number of health personnel.

Nicaragua's Caribbean Coast has a higher risk of coronavirus outbreak due to limitations in health services and access by the population to health information. Prevention is key to stop the spread of the virus. AMC is working to reach the communities where they serve with the distribution of PPE (personal protective equipment), medicines and cleaning supplies, and a public awareness campaign. Unfortunately, AMC did not qualify for the UMCOR COVID-19 rapid response grant but read below about other ways to support AMC in their effort.
A fundraising campaign called Proteccion Pinolero de Emergencia (yes, PPE!) is currently underway, coordinated by a coalition of solidarity groups and led by FNE. The goal is to distribute masks, faceshields, gloves and other supplies to health centers and community health workers in Leon, Chinandega, Managua and the Caribbean Coast Regions.

With support from this campaign, AMC will be one of the organizations distributing protective equipment to health clinics, Casa Materna (maternal waiting homes) and community health workers coming into contact with infected patients.

The first region AMC will reach is the North Autonomous Caribbean Region (Waspam, Rosita and Sahsa) but as more funds are raised, we hope to have future distributions for AMC field offices in other regions.

The need will be ongoing, click here or on the image above to support this important campaign and read the update below.

Update on the PPE campaign: **$15,000 has been raised** and supplies have been purchased and are in process of distribution! *(see image below, left)*

On Monday, June 1, AMC will receive a donation **valued at $2,000** of face shields, cloth and N95 masks, gloves, and pulse oximeters. AMC hopes to ship the supplies to field offices in the Waspam, Sahsa and Rosita (RACCN) by the end of next week and receive more donations in the future as the
campaign continues.

Support the PPE Campaign [here](https://www.facebook.com/groups/253734292380848/).

*Thanks to those who have already donated.*

See/join the Facebook group [https://www.facebook.com/groups/253734292380848/](https://www.facebook.com/groups/253734292380848/)

AMC supports the Ministry of Health's quarterly mobile medical care brigades in places where ongoing health services are scarce. Personal protection equipment is essential to protect health care workers, AMC staff, community health leaders, and empirical midwives as they care for the health remote communities to provide this essential service.

For the other components of AMC's COVID-19 Rapid Response proposal, support is being raised through [The Advance #14846A](https://www.facebook.com/groups/253734292380848/). The first fundraising goal is $20,000 and more than $1500. has already been donated. Thanks to FUMC Waskom, TX, Chevy Chase United Methodist Women, MD and Winthrop UMC, ME for helping AMC!

These funds will be used for a public health campaign that includes radio broadcasts, personal and community hygiene training, and posters and brochures in different languages for community health leaders to multiply the
message. Remember where AMC works in the Caribbean Coast regions and Matagalpa there is little in the way of internet, television, or newspapers. AMC will build on 35 years of experience on how to reach communities with the most appropriate methods. Funds will also be used for the purchase of essential medicines, hygiene supplies and more protective equipment.

Gifts to AMC’s Advance #14846A can be tracked here.

AMC uses materials in prepared in Spanish, English and Miskito languages to reach the mestizo, Afro descendent-Creole and Miskito indigenous groups where the organization has been working to build capacity and create more just condition for health for more than 35 years.

AMC anticipates the need for pandemic response will go through this year and beyond. We are grateful for your support.

Dios les bendiga! God bless you!

I leave you with a poem I just received today from my cousin in the UK. His son, Fergus, is anticipating going “Back to School.” Through an 8-year-old’s eyes, the poem expresses some of the anxiety and feelings that many of us adults have, too!

**Back to School**

*Back to school, back to school
Let’s go back to school
I’m feeling quite excited but also a bit scared
Cause I don’t feel like a big know-it-all I’m not really prepared*
I'm looking forward to dodgeball and all the fun games
But I'm not looking forward to people calling me names
I can’t wait to eat my packed lunch out in the sun
But it will be weird to have to stay two metres away from everyone
Murray will be there, but I won’t see him any more
I’m eight, I’m in Key stage two but he is only four
I’ve missed Mrs Lytle, I can’t wait to see her
I’m sure the first few days will be a bit of a blur
And now I’ve written this I feel much better
I like writing poems, they’re easier than a letter
Back to school, back to school
Let’s go back to school
By Fergus Irvine (aged 8) May 2020

Every church should support a missionary!!

- Give securely online to support Dr. Belinda Forbes
  at https://advance.umcmission.org/p-1489-forbes-belinda.aspx
  (Scroll to the end of the biography information to donate!)

- Give securely online to Accion Medica Cristiana
  (Read about AMC's work and scroll down to donate!)

- For other ways to donate through The Advance, Track Gifts, learn about United
  Methodists in mission, visit https://www.umcmission.org/give-to-mission/about-the-advance

- Sign up for Dr. Forbes’ newsletters and read more information about ministry in
  Nicaragua at www.belindagbgm.blogspot.com

- Contact your local United Methodist Church or the General Board of Global
  Ministries at www.umcmission.org to learn more.
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