

TfT Around The Globe: Nicaragua Christian Academy



Nicaragua

Wendy Gomez is a 5th grade teacher at Nicaragua Christian Academy in Managua, Nicaragua. She is a mom of an NCAI student, an NCAI graduate and a native Nicaraguan. In a country where students who receive a college education outside of Nicaragua often don't return, Wendy embodies a different story—and she is inviting her students to do the same.

Our Deep Hope is that we may be rooted in God's love to become courageous, resilient, and gracious kingdom builders.

This deep hope flows through her language arts program. When students explored stories about animals, it was natural for her to challenge students to connect it to their deep hope. Wendy shared: "We are His creation and we are called to care for His creation. In caring for his creation we are *Kingdom Builders*."



A student adding a personal connection of learning with their deep hope to their classes' Storyboard Tree.



Don Chepe-The Head of Gardening at NCAI shared with students his work as a Kingdom Builder in taking care of NCAI and how they too can care for God's creation.

Students wanted to know more ways that they could care for God's creation, so Wendy invited Patrick Mendoza to share about the equine therapy program he runs at Tesoros De Dios, a school that serves students with severe disabilities. Wendy served as the director of Tesoros de Dios for 10 years prior to teaching at NCAI, so this work was very close to her heart and she wanted her students to not only learn about caring for animals, but how to care for people. Patrick shared with the students how caring for his horses is an extension of caring for the students at Tesoros.



Patrick shares with students his work at Tesoros with equine therapy.

After meeting Patrick, the 5th graders were excited to visit Tesoros' students, plant plants they grew and see the equine therapy program for their FLEx, but first they would research disabilities and animal therapy to help prepare.



Wendy said: "The idea of our FLEx is that we learn from each other, and collaborate in different ways. People with disabilities are usually discriminated against, and marginalized, but God has given them abilities, and a community to support them. However, we need more people in that community, and our desire is for 5th graders to be part of that community and change their mindset of pity to a mindset of collaborators and friends."