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Carma Roetcisoender

Tel. 360/574.3343

Email: [carma@forwardedge.org](mailto:carma@forwardedge.org)

## SUMMIT VIEW CHURCH RAISES \$37,000 TO DIG WELLS IN PUERTO CABEZAS, NICARAGUA

Vancouver, WA — October 26, 2009 — Summit View Church is overjoyed to announce they have collected over \$37,000 to invest in the ongoing effort of Forward Edge International to drill wells in small villages in Nicaragua. Their original goal was to raise \$8,000 to pay for one well, they we're stunned to receive \$37,513.

Several members of Summit View have previously gone on mission trips to Nicaragua with Forward Edge International. Having become aware of the desperate condition of those without clean water on the Atlantic Coast, their vision was to provide practical help. To carry out this vision, they agreed to limit their food and drink consumption to rice, beans and water for *one week* – eating as a great portion of the world eats -- *all of the time*. The amount they saved on groceries was to be donated to pay for a well. Hundreds of their members participated, including children, resulting in donations of all sizes.

The impact of Summit View's gift has been doubled by a generous donor who has offered to match the funds raised through FEI for digging wells. This puts the total amount raised to over \$75,000; enough for at least nine wells.

Summit View's lead pastor, Christ Kainu remarked, "One of the reasons we like to work with Forward Edge International is that they have a great reputation of serving people, both in word and deed. We are also confident that someone is paying attention to the stewardship of the dollars, while honoring the local people. FEI's desire is to be a servant to the local church as they serve the broader community."

FEI is working in partnership with the Verbo Church in Puerto Cabezas and the goal is to dig 115 wells in villages located in the RAAN region of the Atlantic Coast of Nicaragua. The wells will be dug by Nicaraguans, with Forward Edge field staff and short-term volunteers providing supplemental support.

Forward Edge International, located in Vancouver, WA, is a faith-based missions and relief organization that addresses the urgent needs of afflicted people worldwide. By mobilizing hundreds of volunteers each year, Forward Edge International alleviates suffering through disaster-response work, health-care projects and programs for at-risk children in many parts of the U.S. and overseas.

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## Facts about Nicaragua and Water

Nicaragua is the poorest country in the Western Hemisphere—three quarters of the population living without clean drinking water, and hundreds dying or suffering from preventable illness every year. Forward Edge International—one of the only relief organizations working in this part of the world—is addressing the root cause of this health-care calamity. In 2008, FEI purchased a well-drilling rig and shipped it to Nicaragua. Local well drillers are already hard at work and so far they have dug three wells. Short-term volunteers will be sent to assist in this project, pouring concrete slabs, installing pumps, and showing the *JESUS* Film in villages where the wells are dug.

The cost of digging a well ranges from \$8,000 to \$12,000. The variable is how deep they need to dig to find water and the difference in materials associated with that.

In spite of progress, 48 per cent of Nicaraguans still live in poverty. The country is affected by widespread unemployment, low income and lack of access to health, education, water and sanitation.

Potable water coverage in Nicaragua currently only reaches only 48% of the country's rural population, with only 22.7% of the country's "extremely poor" households receiving the service. (IRC, *International Water and Sanitation Centre*, January 12, 2007)



The poorest Nicaraguan citizens and most remote barrios face life-threatening danger every day they drink the dirty and often contaminated water from their hand-dug wells. Many children and adults are subject to disease because of lack of access to clean water. In addition, they face harsh soil conditions and economic obstacles to getting the clean water they need.

### World Water Statistics

The UN suggests that each person needs 20-50 litres of safe freshwater a day to ensure their basic needs for drinking, cooking and cleaning. *Source: World Water Assessment Programme (WWAP)*

More than one in six people worldwide (894 million) do not have access to the needed amount of safe freshwater. *Source: World Health Organization (WHO) and United Nations Children Fund (UNICEF) Joint Monitoring Programme on Water Supply and Sanitation (JMP)*

Globally, diarrhea is the leading cause of illness and death, and 88% of diarrheal deaths are due to a lack of access to sanitation facilities, together with inadequate availability of water for hygiene and unsafe drinking water. *Source: JMP*

Today 2.5 billion people, including almost one billion children, live without even basic sanitation. Every 20 seconds, a child dies as a result of poor sanitation. That's 1.5 million preventable deaths each year. *Source: Water Supply and Sanitation Collaborative Council (WSSCC)*

