



**Give thanks to the Lord, for he is good.
His love endures for ever. Psalm 136:1**

Dear Friends and Family,

I thought it was about time for me to give you an update on what has been happening here on Ometepe.

Balgue

I am still visiting the people in this community on a weekly basis, when we meet together to cook, to chat and to study John's gospel. Although numbers have dwindled slightly over recent weeks, we have a solid group of regulars. It is a real pleasure spending time with them, and they could not be more welcoming or hospitable. Most weeks I leave having eaten a huge lunch!

Master Chef – La Palma

The highlight of last week was the Master Chef competition that we had in La Palma, another of the villages where I am working. The people involved were split into two teams and each team had to cook the same dish, chicken and coconut curry. The teams were marked according to several different categories: punctuality of arrival, participation of all the members of the group (as the men tend to do more talking than cooking), presentation, taste, cleanliness of the kitchen afterwards etc. Everybody entered into the competition with a great deal of enthusiasm and competitive spirit and it was a hugely enjoyable occasion.





Santa Theresa

This is the third community in which I am becoming involved, and we actually have our first cooking session together this afternoon. It should be interesting, as they have decided that they want to cook in the community centre (which strongly resembles a half built building, I had previously presumed it was derelict, but apparently not!) Needless to say there is no kitchen, no stove, no water and certainly no pots, pans and utensils! This does not seem to be an issue for them, they simply mentioned that there is a lot of wood around to cook over and that the well is just down the road! I look forward to seeing what happens this afternoon.

The Schools

The schools have been on their Christmas holidays since the end of November, but are due to restart in the middle of February. I have decided to approach the secondary schools about the possibility of teaching some nutritional classes, as there are I think only seven of them on the island, making it a more feasible prospect for me than the many primary schools.

Please Pray

1. Please give thanks to God for the improvements that they have been making on the roads, cutting at least 30 minutes off some of my journey times. Pray that they may continue to surface more of the roads on the island.
2. For the group in Santa Theresa that they might enjoy the time we spend together and want to meet together on a regular basis.
3. That I might find a church to attend here in Moyogalpa.

Jo