

During the terrible storms and floods in Mexico in September, the people of Ometepe were able to help neighbors by taking them clean drinking water. Ometepe is the site of Idlewild's first water purification installation. This wonderful letter was sent to our Clean Water team:

I pray all is well with you.

We have really used the water system in the first 5 days after the flooding Monday thru Friday. Each day we filled a 1100 liter Tinaco with fresh drinking water and went down the road to the communities distributing the water. The first day it was Charco de la Puerta and Las Iguanas. We could not go farther as the water was 5 feet deep on the road with some of the current of the river. The next day we made it to past the Charco as the water had resided although on the road but not so high to Milpillas. The 3rd day to Comaltepec and Cerro de la Tabla. The 4th day to el Arenal and along the road. The people would come with a container and we would fill it. In the Arenal they ended up filling barrels for the whole community to last quite a few days until their well we established again. Thanks so much for the system it really worked these last few days.



Ometepe residents filling water containers to take to people in flooded areas

We are fine and in Ometepe all is fine. No damage. But in the low lands not the same much was flooded. Comaltepec, by the river, the ends of the town was flooded people at 4 am on Sunday had to flee their homes as water filled them. The entrance to the town was close to 3 meters under water. The road to Cuaji just passing the bridge of Milpillas about ½ mile was washed away and so the river invaded thru there. So to go to Cuaji you have to cross in a boat and then take another taxi the rest of the way. The gov't. in the 80's had built a ridge to protect from the river but the water came in behind when the road was washed out. Anyway for a week we drove the truck taking a tank, 300 gallons, of drinking water from the school plant, about 60 of the 5 gallon jugs, and cloths and food. The first day Monday we only got a little way as the water was high then on Tuesday a little farther than on Wed. to Comaltepec

and Thursday farther down to El Arenal, until Friday in two canoes we reached the last little community, Banco de Oro. We reached some people who were camped up on the ridge who had swam out of their house on Sunday midday. Yes, all the crops, many corn fields getting ready to harvest all folded over if not washed away, were lost and many animals. One man said he lost all his 200 head of cattle including his milking cows. Many chickens and turkeys were lost although we saw many up on the roof tops and in the trees. At the end of the ridge, about 30 km down, is a hill and some families live on it. They said they say lots of animals going down the river and a few people. Some people were rescued from trees and others from roof tops. I guess in time we will see how much was lost and how many lives, people are unaccounted for. The gov't and the local people have reacted and are sending and taking aid. Our church and others have reacted very well sending cloths, food and many willing to go and help. It is neat to see the peoples willingness to help with what they have to and to sacrifice for others.

At one community, the Arenal, I shared we have brought you water, food, clothes and now we want to share the best and that is the message of knowing God. The Sovereign Lord what he can give in your heart and soul will not wash away. Drinking Water that will not run dry. We will keep visiting some of the communities to see how they make it through these first few months, maybe getting some more corn and beans to them and whatever they may need.

Thank you for your prayers.

Tim