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Focus On Religion

Rev. Mendez visits Nicaragua

By SUSAN HUNT
Chronicle Staff Writer

Nicaragua is a small, Central American country of about three million people, but in the last five years it has become a major symbol of the cold war.

From Aug. 17 to 26, a group of 15 U.S. citizens from around the country representing varied backgrounds and professions went on a fact-finding pilgrimage to Nicaragua. One of those representatives was the Rev. John Mendez, pastor of Emmanuel Baptist Church.

Rev. Mendez says he's a "disciple of peace and justice in a warmongering environment which is being created by the Reagan administration."

"I went on this fact-finding mission primarily to see for myself exactly what is going on in Nicaragua, and also because I want to help churches redefine their concept of mission work."

Generally, the thrust of the church's mission work has been the salvation of the soul. But it is equally important, said Mendez, for the church to concern itself with matters of the body -- with justice, truth and freedom -- in other words, the whole person, not just a part of him.

If a person is hungry, without adequate housing or food, and is victimized by crime, then these things must become the responsibility of the church, Mendez said.

President Reagan says that the people are worse off now than they were under the rule of General Antonio Somoza. But Mendez and his group found just the opposite to be true. "The group found that the living situation of the majority of the Nicaraguan people has been greatly improved," he said. "Health care, education, housing and land distribution have been improved tremendously."

The American president says that the Nicaraguans' military capability threatens neighboring countries. "We have seen the nature of the Nicaraguan military," Mendez said. "It is composed of young boys and women. It is defensive. It is a shame that the U.S. forces these young children and women to fight and die in defense of their country. This military lacks the capacity for aggression against neighboring countries. A country of three million people and an outdated armed forces and machinery cannot be a threat to a nation of 250 million people with the most advanced technology."

"I want to help churches re-define their concept of mission work."

--Rev. John Mendez

President Reagan also says that the country's electoral process is a fraud, but Mendez found an electoral process that has been meticulously structured to guarantee the participation of people and parties at every level. The country has a 95 per cent voter registration rate with government support and financing of campaigns.

The president says that the U.S. must overthrow the Nicaraguan government because it is a communist threat. But fact-finding mission found that the Nicaraguan people are committed to a policy of nonalignment with respect to the United States and the Soviet Union. The group found a mixed economy that includes both private and public ownership.

The president says the counter-revolutionaries which the U.S. is supporting are "freedom-fighters." But Mendez said, "The



Rev. Mendez enters the gate of an El Regadio farm in Nicaragua, a region where many have been killed. Mendez and his group were accompanied by the Sandanista National Liberation Front (photo by Robert E. Thomason).

Nicaraguans we met with do not support the U.S.-backed contras and consider them to be traitors to their country. We attended the funeral of two young men who were tortured and killed by the contras. Their families and friends believe that they died for freedom.

"As Christians, we can do something about this situation," Mendez said. "As Christians and decent human beings and citizens of this nation who love justice and right, Americans can call upon congressmen to support a peaceful solution to the pro-

blems of Nicaragua."

Mendez says that he is interested in spreading the word to anyone who wishes to find out more about the Nicaraguan situation.

He has prepared a slide show of his trip, which he plans to present to interested persons or groups.

"People of Winston-Salem are learning about what is going on in other lands and they are becoming more aware every day," Mendez said. "I encourage more ministers to go and learn about Nicaragua."

CHURCH CALENDAR

THURSDAY, NOVEMBER 8

• Anniversary services will be held through Sunday at the City of God Prayer Fellowship at 2201 N.E. 23rd St. The speaker will be Elder Terrah Hammonds. Services begin at 7:30 p.m. Pastor Anna Lester invites everyone.

SATURDAY, NOVEMBER 10

• A fall bazaar and poor man's dinner sponsored by the United Methodist Women will be held from 10 a.m. until 4 p.m. at the Saint's Home United Methodist Church a 1390 Thurmond St. Good soul food, crafts and more.

• Joy No. 8 Youth Department of the Order of Eastern Star will have a talent contest at 7 p.m. in the Red Rock Masonic Hall.

SUNDAY, NOVEMBER 11

• Evangelist Sarah C. Rowdy and members of the Revelations of Faith Church will worship with Evangelist Faye Thomas at Bethesda T.V.P.H. Church in Thomasville on Turner Street at 4 p.m.

• The Women's Progressive Club of First Baptist Church on Highland Avenue will present the Zion Memorial Church Gospel Choir in concert at 4 p.m. in the Fellowship Hall of First Baptist Church. The choir, directed by Dr. James Kinchen, will present a program of hymns and gospel songs. The program is in observance of the club's anniversary.

• The Goler Metropolitan Young Adult Choir will join with the Middlefork Young Adult Choir in concert as they present "Praise God in Songs" at 5 p.m. The church is located on the corner of Fourth Street and Dunleith Avenue. Everyone is invited to come out for some good gospel music.

• The 20th Ministerial Anniversary of Pastor Effie B. Cannon will begin at 3 p.m. and continue through Nov. 18. Services will be held nightly at 7:30. The opening speaker will be the Bishop Jake J. Johnson, pastor of Mt. Nebo Holiness Church. The public is invited to attend.

• Mt. Olive Baptist Church from Heightown, N.J. will share fellowship with the New Jerusalem Baptist Church at 4 p.m. The speaker will be the Rev. William Powell, pastor of Mt. Olive Baptist Church, Heightown, N.J. All proceeds will go to the building fund.

MONDAY, NOVEMBER 12

• New Faith Chapel will hold its 4th Annual General Convention. The convention will be held at the headquarter church in Winston-Salem. The convention's theme for 1984-85 is "Let's Go Forward." The convention will continue through Nov. 18. Bible seminars will be conducted by Bishop Lawrence S. Tate and special guest evangelist, Mary Bell Montgomery. The church is located at 1419 Waughtown St.

Church Notes

Dr. Williams is guest speaker

The annual Men's Day Celebration at Union Chapel Baptist Church will be held at 11 a.m. and 5 p.m. on Sunday, Nov. 11.

Dr. Kenneth R. Williams, retired chancellor of Winston-Salem State University, will be the speaker for the morning service.

Dr. Williams was born in Norfolk, Va., to the late Rev. and Mrs. Kenneth R. Williams Sr. He served Winston-Salem State University from 1936 to 1977. He has served as minister at First Institutional Baptist Church and West End Baptist Church. He

was also a chaplain in the U.S. Army from 1942-1946.

He presently serves on the board of the Northwestern Bank, Voluntary Action Center, Board of Fellows, Galludet College and the governing board of Hospice.

Dr. Williams has received honors from Wake Forest University, Southern Illinois University, the Freedom Foundation Award, and Danforth Travel Grant.

He is married to Edythe Williams. They have three sons, Kenneth, Ronald, and Norman.



Dr. Kenneth R. Williams

David Allen

Dr. Serenus Churn

Appreciation services honor Allen

Appreciation services honoring Minister of Music David L. Allen, renowned composer and arranger, will be held in the Ambassador Cathedral at 1500 English St. on Saturday, Nov. 10,

and Sunday, Nov. 11, at 7:30 nightly.

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Area Deaths and Funerals

Alexander Truesdale

Mr. Alexander Truesdale, of 5766 Hayes St. N.E., Washington, D.C., died Tuesday, Oct. 30, on arrival at Forsyth Memorial Hospital. He was born in Winston-Salem and had lived in Washington for the past 30 years before moving back to this city three weeks ago.

Mr. Truesdale was a Methodist and a veteran of World War II. He is survived by one daughter, Mrs. Casandra Wright, of this city; one son, Tracy Truesdale, of this city; two sisters, Mrs. Thelma Jones, of this city, and Mrs. Cinnie Shingler of Washington; six grandchildren; two great-grandchildren; one brother-in-law, Mr. James Jones, of this city; many nieces, nephews, cousins, other relatives and friends.

Funeral services were held at 4:30 p.m. on Monday, Nov. 5, at First Thessalonians Baptist Church. Burial followed in the Evergreen Cemetery. Johnson's Home of Memory Funeral Directors was in charge of the funeral arrangements.

Kendra Y. Ingram

Infant Kendra Y. Ingram, of 321 Lakeview Blvd., died Saturday, Nov. 3, at Forsyth Memorial Hospital.

She is survived by her mother, Ms. Linda F. Ingram, of the home; her father, Kenneth Lee Butler, of this city; one sister, Cherrie A. Ingram; her maternal grandparents, the Rev. and Mrs. Charles Hayes, of this city; and her paternal grandmother, Mrs. Bernice Butler, of this city.

Graveside services were held at 11 a.m. on Monday, Nov. 5, at Nat Watkins Cemetery in Walkertown. Johnson's Home of Memory Funeral Directors was in charge of the funeral arrangements.

Annie Hall Stevens

Mrs. Annie Hall Stevens, of 704 Willow St., died Monday, Nov. 5, on arrival at Forsyth Memorial Hospital. Funeral and burial arrangements will be announced at a later date. Johnson's Home of Memory Funeral Directors will be in charge of the funeral arrangements.

Naomi Anglin Morgan

Mrs. Naomi Anglin Morgan, of 53 Woodstock Apartments, Elizabeth City, died Monday, Oct. 29, in that city. She was a native of Winston-Salem and had lived in Elizabeth City for the past 16 years.

Mrs. Morgan was a retired teacher at Elizabeth City State University and a member of the Cornerstone Baptist Church in that city, having served on the church choir and the Cornerstone Mother's Choir. She was a graduate of Winston-Salem State University and received her master's degree from New York University. She is survived by four nieces, Mrs. Ida Martin, Ms. Georgia Dunlap, Mrs. Ruby K. Duckwilder and Mrs. Georgia R. Price, and other relatives.

Funeral services were held at 2 p.m. on Saturday, Nov. 3, at the Mt. Pleasant Baptist Church. Burial followed in the Evergreen Cemetery. Hooper Funeral Directors was in charge of the funeral arrangements.

Cheryl Elaine Johnson

Ms. Cheryl Elaine Johnson, of 861 Rankin St., died Tuesday, Oct. 30, at Forsyth Memorial Hospital. She was the daughter of Mr. Albert L. and the late Mrs. Bertha Johnson.

Ms. Johnson was a member of the St. Paul United Methodist Church. She is survived by her father, of the home; two sisters, Mrs. Joyce J. Hicks, of this city, and Ms. Yvonne Johnson of Baltimore, Md.; a devoted niece, Ms. Melody Hicks, of this city; several uncles, aunts and other relatives.

Funeral services were held at 1 p.m. on Saturday, Nov. 3, at the St. Paul United Methodist Church. Burial followed in the Evergreen Cemetery. Hooper Funeral Directors was in charge of the funeral arrangements.

Ulmont L. Miller, Jr.

Mr. Ulmont L. Miller, Jr., of 372 Washington Ave., the Bronx, N.Y., died Monday, Oct. 29, in that city. He was a native of Winston-Salem and had lived in New York for the past 25 years.

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