

# Our Experience in Nicaragua

## Managua 1988: Remembering our first visit

In January 1988, the brothers of Weston Priory journeyed to Nicaragua under the guidance of Global Awareness Through Education, a program coordinated by Chess Campbell, a U.S. Presbyterian laywoman on the staff of the Nicaraguan organization CEPAD.

The Sandinista National Liberation Front (FSLN)— which, in 1979, had overthrown the corrupt Somoza dictatorship after a protracted guerilla war—was ruling the country. By 1988, the United States-backed Contra War, and the illegal U.S. blockade of Managua harbor, was taking a toll on unity within the country.

The brothers articulated the purpose of their 1988 visit in this way:

- To express "solidarity and hope to the poor and suffering people of Nicaragua," and
- To be "a monastic witness of conscience to our fellow citizens of the United States."



A failed hope? Sandinista billboard on a vacant lot in Managua: 'We want peace with dignity'



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