



# VERBO REPORT

Autumn 2007

*“Give and it will be given to you, pressed down, shaken together and overflowing”*

## Verbo Team Is On Site to Help Victims

# Hurricane Felix Wracks Nicaragua

Can you put a face on disaster with numbers? If you could, the aftermath of Hurricane Felix on Nicaragua’s northeast would look like this:

Over 100 people died, another 500

million of Zelaya del Norte ready to start serving disaster victims.

Earl usually oversees a church, orphanage, large school complex and work and social projects in the region, but he’s familiar with hurricane disaster relief. When Mitch pummeled the Miskito Indians living along the nearby Rio Coco in 1998 Earl supervised the relief and medical teams that continue to this day serving remote river communities like Krin Krin with health services and a school.

This time Earl had to get his damaged facilities in order at the same time that he was mobilizing his workers to help other victims. Their first efforts included packaging and delivering food supplies to



**FIRE STATION DOWN**—The roof of one of Puerto Cabezas’ fire stations collapsed over the trucks, cutting down the number of vehicles available for urgent rescue efforts. Verbo Nicaragua relief expert Bob Trolese plans to provide long term reconstruction help for the town.

are unaccounted for and many of them are presumed dead.

12 remote villages were apparently wiped out, but clear information is not yet available.

155,528 people suffered losses from winds and rain.

9,809 homes were destroyed.

6,679 homes were damaged.

96% of the region’s agricultural production was ruined.

When this category five hurricane slammed into land at 160 miles an hour on Sept. 4 Verbo Puerto Cabezas director Earl Bowie and his helpers were just a few miles away in that coastal capital of the Autonomous Re-

families in some of Puerto Cabeza’s hardest hit areas.

Now he and Bob Trolese, Verbo Nicaragua director and the ministry’s premier relief and development expert, are planning long term aid that will probably include house building for the neediest Felix victims.

After assessing the damage in Puerto Cabezas and several destroyed outlying villages, Bob reports, “Response to disaster relief is part of our makeup. We’re already distributing food in some of the most destitute areas of town even though many in our own congregation—



**FOOD DISTRIBUTION**—Volunteers from Verbo’s church in Puerto Cabezas started distributing food to the neediest Hurricane Felix victims immediately after the disaster.



**STEPS TO NOWHERE**—Felix generated torrential rains and high winds that destroyed thousands of poor peoples’ homes.

including some on the distribution teams—suffered equal if not worse losses. But in a few weeks the disaster relief agencies will be on their way to the next emergency. That’s when we

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## ***Felix Hit the Poorest Area of the Americas' Second Poorest Nation***

hope to start home reconstruction. One of the Miskito Indian villages we visited, Krukira, was totally flattened. We're looking for resources to start rebuilding houses there. As we passed out food packages in La Esperanza, a very

damaged neighborhood in Puerto Cabezas we realized it was another place where a rebuilding project is urgent.

"Focusing our construction efforts on these two areas will enable us to labor more intensely both physically and

spiritually than if we tried to cover all the needs across this vast and isolated northeast sector of Nicaragua." Bob adds, "Our heart is to raise up a Christian banner for the proclamation of the Lord's faithfulness.

The warmth and the resilience of these two communities' residents struck our hearts. This seems an affirmation that the Lord wants to be honored here by a mature, long term, integrated Christian development project."

Meanwhile, food and clean water are immediate needs. An estimated 9,000 tons of food will be necessary in the coming months because agricultural production has been virtually eliminated. Children are falling sick because of the polluted water sources.

Verbo is collaborating with other Christian organizations to distribute urgently needed food and plastics for temporary shelters. You can help today by sending your generous donation marked "Felix" to our Kenner LA address or via <[www.verbo.org](http://www.verbo.org)> Please join this effort!



**HIGH AND DRY**—Hurricane Felix claimed lives, wrecked homes and ruined crops along the lower Nicaragua-Honduras border. Floods and wild winds spared Coco River villages like Krin Krin—whose flimsy wooden houses are built on stilts. Verbo has operated a school, church and social services there since Hurricane Mitch devastated the area in 1998.



**CRASH COURSE**—Category 5 Hurricane Felix' 160 mph winds sent destruction to nearly two hundred thousand people. Most suffered loss of homes and belongings, but some lost loved ones. The death toll is likely to rise to over 200 people, many of them subsistence fishermen caught at sea when the hurricane hit.



**HOMELESS GRANNY**—Her house leveled by hurricane winds, this grandmother and her grandchildren are finding shelter in the rainy season in their jerry-built shelter.



**MAN ON THE SCENE**—Earl Bowie directs Verbo's churches, social outreaches and hurricane relief in northeastern Nicaragua from his headquarters in Puerto Cabezas, a town of fifty thousand people hard-hit when Felix' eye passed close by.

The very best way to give is online at <[www.verbo.org](http://www.verbo.org)> where you can specify the work or missionary to whom you wish to send your aid. Go to the "Online Donations Center" to make a secure contribution and receive a tax deductible receipt.

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