

Stephanie is on CAFOD's gap year programme, Step into the Gap. Most of the year, she works in a parish and primary school in Lancashire helping people to get involved in tackling global injustice. But she has also spent three weeks in Nicaragua visiting CAFOD partners – local organisations working with poor communities – and saw God reflected in the people she met there.



Jairo, Georgina and their two children live in the village of El Caimito. Jairo is part of a community cooperative supported by CAFOD's partner, John XXIII Institute. They live in a one-roomed house, with a separate area outside where they do their cooking. The surrounding houses belong to Jairo's family and extended family, who all help in a family furniture building business.

The morning consisted of me helping to get the water from the well next to their house. We got around 20 buckets, half of which were used for the garden and half for their daily water needs such as washing and cooking. This was done every morning and I was shocked to hear the well was only one year old. It took us over an hour and, with blisters to prove it, I could not imagine having to carry the heavy buckets of water further. It definitely made me think twice about the ease of being able to turn a tap on.

Georgina showed me where she would come down to wash their clothes in the river twice a week, taking around three hours. She loved showing me things and telling me about their daily lives. Despite being only a few years older than I am, she felt more like a mother figure to me with all her experience and the sheer difference of our lives. I really connected with this family and it was extremely sad to leave.



Stephanie helps Georgina to make breakfast

Her encounter with Georgina inspired Stephanie to write the poem below, modelled on 'Each sacramental thing' by poet, Rachel M. Srubas:

Each sacramental person

warmth, lighting up her persona
 devoted, from dawn to dusk
 creative hands, caring smile, twinkling eyes
 friend, mother, wife
 each sacramental person remains herself and means you, too
 who are radiating
 hard-working
 reaching our hearts
 shining bright like a star
 kind, affectionate, loving,
 dedicated

**Think of someone who inspires you.
 List the aspects of God that you see in him or her.
 Use your list to write a poem – perhaps using the structure of Steph's poem.**