

US Missionary Seeking Aid from Capitol Hill for Jailed Pastors Following Evangelism Events

An American missionary faces criminal charges in Nicaragua after bringing mass evangelism campaigns to the country. Now pastors he worked with are in prison.

Around a million people attended the campaigns last year. Britt Hancock of Mountain Gateway says God did amazing things, healing and transforming lives.

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A couple of months after the final gathering, however, the government brought charges of money laundering and organized crime against Britt, his son Jacob and daughter-in-law Cassie.

"We're totally innocent of those charges," Britt told CBN News. "Money laundering – there has to be a crime on the front end to obtain the money illegally, and so all of the money that we put into Nicaragua came from our donor base."

"So there's no underlying crime there, and we certainly are not organized crime bosses," he continued.

Jacob describes his reaction to the charges as "shock" and "disbelief".

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"We had been pouring our lives into the nation of Nicaragua,

and so we didn't know what was happening at the time, and so we just began to pray and just began to try to figure out what was going on," he told CBN News.

While the three safely made it home, the country's attorney general charged 11 Mountain Gateway Nicaraguan pastors with money laundering and put them in prison. They include Marisela, a wife and mother separated from her children for two months now.

"My heart is completely broken for Marisela, just knowing that she's sitting in a prison cell away from her babies," Cassie Hancock told CBN News. "She's like a sister to me, and she's been an aunt to my kids. She just gave birth to her baby boy at the end of September." {eo}

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