

I'm Maggie Walker and I was with Margaret for the week before she died.

Margaret had shown her commitment to grass roots socialism and her faith in women when she became involved in plans for women from the Manchester area to go on a women's study tour to Nicaragua and for some of us to spend extra time with people in the Manchester twin town then called Puerto Cabezas.

As members of Twin Sisters we encouraged women from local community projects to join us. Fund-raising and planning for the tour seemed to take over our lives, although we were actually involved in many other things. It was typical that Margaret was a part of this initiative based in local activity and bringing together many of the interests in her life.

I think that the trip to Nicaragua fulfilled Margaret's hopes. We met people who's faith in change was inspiring. Seven of us, after our 2 weeks with the Nicaragua Solidarity Campaign tour, branched out on our own and went to the Atlantic Coast. We had money to deliver, messages and banners. We wanted to further the links between Manchester and its twin town and we wanted to influence the NSC and aid agencies to support the people of Nicaragua's multi-ethnic Atlantic Coast. Margaret particularly wanted to learn from the experience of their "Autonomy programme" for the

indigenous people of the Coast.

Margaret and I had planned to stay on a week longer than the others. It wasn't comfortable, we undertook journeys in rickety trucks, food disagreed with us. People or things we wanted to see sometimes never seemed to be where we had been told to expect to find them.

But, it was inspiring, we met fascinating people who were over-coming enormous odds to redevelop their war-torn, colonised communities. It was very satisfying to develop with them ideas for the way that links between Manchester and our new friends in Puerto Cabezas could be developed, to understand their thinking and their needs.

It was at the end of this inspiring time - filled with a sense of purpose and achievement that we were woken by shouts in our hotel. Margaret translated the shouts as "Fire". Margaret died along with others attempting to escape from that disastrous fire.

While we are remembering Margaret I'd also like to take the opportunity to thank all of you and many others for the support you gave to me, to my partner, friends and family while I was recovering from my injuries.

Id also ask you to remember the sadness of other

friends and families in Nicaragua, Chile and around the world who were affected by the tragic events of that night ten years ago.

The other thank you is to all those who have kept alive the links with our twin town. Working in different ways and at different times to keep the links with Bilwi alive and maintaining the friendships which were the purpose and inspiration of Margaret's last days.

Thank you.....