

## ***Instituto Henry George Formed in Nicaragua***

Paul Martin, Director of the newly-founded *Instituto Henry George de Managua, Nicaragua* has been working hand-in-hand with the HGI in developing its new Spanish-language course. Paul is a newcomer to the Georgist movement, but he has already accomplished quite a bit and his enthusiasm is infectious! "I became an ardent Georgist," he says, "as a result of a lifelong exposure to liberation theology through my parents and by having the good luck (or divine intervention) of finding the *Understanding Economics* web site of the HGI which finally made sense of it all." He is convinced that Nicaragua's recent history makes it one of the most receptive places on earth for Georgist reform.

By trade, Paul is the Executive Director of Nicaragua Spanish Schools, a program which offers "a combined Spanish language, cultural immersion and edu-tourism program" for anyone wishing to improve their Spanish and learn about Nicaraguan culture. The schools, which employ some 35 local staff members, will provide a base of support for the activities of the *Instituto Henry George*. Support for the founding of the *Instituto* is being provided by the Robert Schalkenbach Foundation.

The new organization will fan out and spread Georgist ideas through classes, publications and other media. International volunteers, serving internships, will be trained in Georgist ideas through the HGI's program and in Spanish, if need be, by the Nicaragua Spanish Schools. One of their major activities will be to gather, analyze and publish data about land values and use in Nicaragua, to demonstrate the need for a rent-as-revenue policy. Negotiations are under way to present this material on a regular show on one of Managua's major radio stations. The *Instituto* also hopes to serve as a model for similiar efforts in other countries.

Paul and his wife María Haydeé Mendez are also expanding the movement the old-fashioned way: they are the parents of a newborn son, Jupi!



*Paul and María Haydeé*