



MEXICO MISSION TRIP

GO. SERVE. LOVE



The Mission Trip:

We had a great trip. I thank God for keeping us safe as we travelled. As I look back, we had the perfect team for the work that needed to be done. We spent our time doing routine maintenance that needed attention, but we were also able to mix work with time with the children at Pan de Vida. For myself, I learned more about patience and expectations. I have been there many times before and I had certain expectations of how things would go and what we would do, but God had different plans for us this year. I am very grateful for the time we had and for the team that worked together. It was another great experience serving with Children of Hope.



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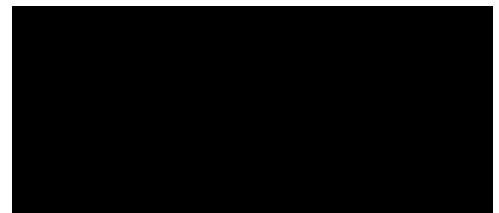


Peggy

Did you know?

--Every Monday, students in Mexico hold a flag ceremony in addition to singing their national anthem at the start of the school day. At Pan de Vida, each class also takes turns on Mondays making a special presentation on children's human rights. While we were there, the Grade 1/2 class presented to the school. Some of the rights presented were: the right to care and protection; the right to an education; the right to be loved by a family and caregivers; the right to safety.

--In Mexico, mortgages are quite uncommon. Homeowners are more likely to pay for the full cost of the house directly at sale. As a result, it is more common for people around Pan de Vida to buy a small home and then spend the money to build up and out over time. That is why you often see houses with rebar poking out of roofs, unfinished. People will build more as they have the savings to do so, and it is a sign that they are planning to expand their home (as opposed to simply not finishing a project).



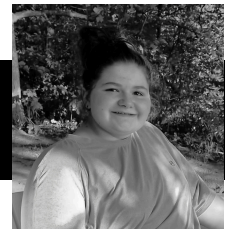
Mercy

Growing up I got the privilege to be on mission trips to Guatemala and experience meeting different people and seeing new things and eating new things. I got used to what Guatemala was and grew familiar with the culture and everything around me. I had two places to call home and never thought of going anywhere else to be a missionary. But, when the opportunity to go to Mexico and Pan de Vida, I was thrilled to experience some place new and minister to other people, but at the same time, I was thinking I wouldn't enjoy it or find it as fun or find I couldn't have my heart at more than one orphanage. Boy, was I wrong! The moment we set foot at the orphanage I felt a warm welcoming and felt God's presence. There was so much joy and gratitude the moment we got to hang with the kids. What I am trying to say is, Pan de Vida has won over part of my heart. Sometimes, all you need to do is have an open mind and be prepared for anything to happen. I am forever glad that I chose to go on that mission trip and show God's love to his beautiful children



Charity

On our last afternoon at Pan De Vida, we planned something special for the kids as one final favour. Originally, we had plans to take the kids out for something like bowling, but our plans had to change. The alternative was a blast anyway. We started planning some water games that involved sponges, cups, and water balloons. We had fun even just setting up for the games! The games were played in this giant field with scruffy grass at the back of the property. While playing the games, things got a bit chaotic and unorganized because we were supposed to have stations of different games that the kids would rotate through, but things just got confusing and all crazy. You could still tell the kids were thoroughly enjoying themselves, laughing while they threw buckets of water at each other. It may have been a bit difficult to orchestrate, but it was fun to watch. Afterwards, we went to their auditorium, where we had a pizza party that involved gifts, dancing, confetti, and a whole lot of thank yous and goodbye hugs. Their genuine gratitude for our time and energy paid over the ten days was obviously very appreciated. It was a bit sad saying goodbye, but overall it was an excellent way to finish off an excellent week!



Patience

In Mexico I learned many things, such as more words in Spanish, and, how to correctly paint an apartment! But, most of all, I learned how to be grateful everyday. For about 2 hours, we would go and play with the little girls in the girls' dorm. About our fifth day, there a girl about 12 years old named Alejandra, who gave me, my two sisters, and Peggy, each a picture she had drawn with writing on the bottom. I don't know how to read Spanish, so I had to translate it on my phone, but it said "You are so nice..You are so beautiful. Thank you for all you've done." so when I was thinking about what to say today I was thinking back and remembering how grateful the kids were. All the kids came from bad backgrounds or their parents didn't have enough money to keep them, so those kids probably miss their parents a lot, but every time I saw them they were smiling from ear to ear, so I realized, if you paint a wall, pick some weeds, or just play with the kids for an hour, they will be so grateful. So, my trip to Mexico taught me to stop looking at what I don't have, and to start looking at what I do have.



March Morning Madness: Gardens of Grace

Written By: Melodie Brown

March morning Madness was a success!

We had 34 kids sign up, many of whom had never been to a Bethel Bible Church kids' program before!

We spent the week in some high energy worship, getting our hands dirty in crafts, stretching our muscles in games, and growing in our faith through Bible study and scripture memorization. We learned about God's plan of salvation as we dug deeper into different gardens in the Bible.

Monday was the garden of Eden. We explored how God created a perfect world and how sin destroyed it. On Tuesday we learned about the garden of Gethsemane, and how Jesus was faithful to what God asked him to do up to dying on the cross for our sins because of His love for us. On Wednesday we dove into the life changing news about how Jesus rose from the dead in the garden of resurrection. Thursday we explored the garden of growth and how to grow in our relationship with God, and how to be rooted and growing in Him so we can produce fruit of the Spirit. Friday we learned about the garden restored. We learned about Heaven, and how Jesus is preparing a place for us in Heaven and how He will make perfect what sin destroyed.

On Friday we were able to give out 13 Bibles to kids who wanted one, and we had 5 kids accept Jesus into their hearts. It was an amazing week! We had amazing volunteers, amazing kids, and amazing conversations! Lives were changed!