

Hey Everyone!

July 2, 2008

How are you doing? I can't believe that it's summer already! It is soooo hot and humid down here in Mazatlan—it was definitely a shock to come back to. It is definitely nice to be back in Maz again, though, and to have finished outreach and the DTS.

VERA CRUZ

When we were praying about where to go on outreach, God spoke to us clearly about going to Vera Cruz for the last week. This was not such an easy thing though; we had to fight every step of the way—to get contact information, to get a hold of the pastor there, to communicate over the phone in Spanish, AND to actually get there. Within an hour of leaving Mexico City we got pulled over by the cops. It was not too uncommon for us to get pulled over for no real reason by cops who just wanted to be paid off, but usually, when we refused to do so, they would let us go. This time, however, they found out that our registration was expired (which we didn't know before) so they actually had us on something legal. They took us to the police station and we talked and talked and refused to compromise for two hours, in spite of the many “deals” that they tried to make us. We just tried to explain to them that, because we were Christians, we wanted to do everything strictly by the law, even if it meant that our vehicle had to be impounded. This was a real test for Josh, Kayla, and I to see if we would stand by what we knew was right or not. Then after two hours, they just let us go without paying or having to do anything. What an answer to prayer! But...we were still faced with the problem of getting to Vera Cruz with a van with expired registration. During all of this, I also ended up getting really sick and going to the doctor, where they told me I shouldn't travel for a few days. So, Kayla and I ended up staying with some friends in Mexico City for a few days to get our registration renewed while Josh brought the rest of the team to Vera Cruz overnight on a bus. It was very nice to have a couple of days in Mexico City to rest and get better before driving 7 hours to Vera Cruz. After so much work to get us all there, our time working with this small church in this small town in Vera Cruz was amazing!! We spoke and pretty much led every church service that week and had the opportunity to pray for healing in several people's lives. The most encouraging story is from a man, Juanito, who God led us to pray for everyday. He was suffering from severe anemia and the after affects of cancer and chemo. The first day, he was in a small dark room and couldn't talk or move at all. By the end of our time there, he was in a bigger, brighter room, was watching TV for the first time in months, and was moving and talking to us clearly. The change and healing we saw in him, spiritually as well as physically, was truly miraculous!

DE-BRIEF AND SAYING GOODBYE

After our week in Vera Cruz, we spent 4 days in Guadalajara to wrap up the outreach and reflect on all that God has done in that time. One of the last days, we drew a big target on a white board and looked back on the goals we had prayed about and set for our outreach. The more we talked about the things we had seen God do and marked them accordingly on our target, the more we saw that we fulfilled every single one of them! The most amazing and visible one was that we had felt God lead us to aim to see 90 salvations, and when we counted up the number of people we had seen saved in each place, we got to EXACTLY 90 people!!!! God truly is amazing!! Afterward, we made our way back to Mazatlan and had a little over a week together before graduation to make some last minute memories and talk about what to expect when going home. Looking back, it was such an awesome experience for me to be a part of seeing these students rise up and grow in their faith. I can now see how God grew me right along side of all of them, and I hope to staff many more DTS's in the years to come.

PRAYER REQUESTS

- for renewed strength as I start staffing our summer internship, Verano de Fuego, next week.
- that all of the students for our internship would arrive safely and that God would really touch their lives and transform them while they're here.
- for the base as we are trying to get all of the details in place to be able to buy a new property, and need to be moved out of here in exactly a month.

I love you all and miss you tons! I can't wait to be able to see a lot of you when I come home for my vacation time in September! I always love hearing from you all!

Dios los bendiga,

Cassandra

Received in June \$_____

