

HAPPY NEW YEAR!!!! I hope that you all have been enjoying this holiday season! This past month has been pretty crazy and full of tons of different things, but it has been a great time of coming together in unity and glorifying our Savior!

WALTER: As some of you may have heard, one of our DTS students, Walter, who was going to come to Haiti with me, got hit by a car 4 days before we left for outreach. He was skateboarding down a hill and didn't see the car coming in time to stop; he hit the front windshield, flew through the air, and hit a tree. He fractured all of his ribs, broke 5 on each side, one of those punctured his right lung, and he had a severe concussion. He was rushed to the hospital and was only released yesterday. This was really hard on all of us, especially our students (some of which saw the whole thing happen). It was hard for my outreach time to lose a team member and to have to leave Mazatlán not knowing for sure how he was doing. Through this whole thing, however, my team has really come closer together and become more focused and serious about outreach. It has been hard to walk through this with all of them and be strong for them, but we have all been reminded of God's goodness, faithfulness, and trustworthy character.



VBS Game Time

HAITI: Much of this month we have spent getting ready for and raising money for Haiti. We were learning about the culture, asking God for some goals for our time here, practicing dramas, preparing our sermons and testimonies, and really covering our time in prayer. We went to a local plaza a few times at night to do short programs and raise money for outreach. But it wasn't until last Tuesday night (12/23) that the 9 of us set out for Haiti! It took us a little over 2 days to get to our first location—Jacmel, Haiti—and we've now been here for a whole week. Our Christmas was pretty hard and unspecial as we spent the whole day traveling in some rough conditions, but we tried to make it up to the students by throwing a big party for

New Year's Eve! So far we've been planning and running a VBS for kids ages 4-10 in our neighborhood; tomorrow's our last day. Haiti is so different from what I expected! We're getting used to being stared at everywhere we go and trying to learn some basic words—it has been a long time since I've been somewhere where I didn't know the language and couldn't communicate with the local people. This has taken some getting used to, but it has stretched me a lot and reminded me what most of our students feel like when they come to Mazatlán and can't speak Spanish. Overall, the team is doing great with our rough traveling and living conditions and I'm so proud of them!



PRAYER REQUESTS:

- for Walter's continued healing, that he could rest, and that he would know what to do next.
- that my outreach team would continue to become more unified and focused on God and all that He has in store for us in this time.
- for good attitudes for all of us, as some of our living conditions and ministry times will be pretty intense and hard.

Once again, I miss you all in this holiday season but wish you the best! Happy 2009! I'd love to hear about how you have been lately!

Love and God bless,
Cassandra