

Hey Everyone!

April 6, 2009

This month has been a month of many transitions. The DTS students graduated and went back home, I changed jobs, my best friend on the base got married, and a couple other staff members ended their commitments and went home. Transitioning is always a bit hard, but I'm excited for everything that God is doing here.



Graduation

DTS GRADUATION: After Carnaval, the students had two more weeks before they graduated. They spent a lot of time working and evangelizing in a few different communities, as well as getting ready to go home. We always take a week with our DTS students before they graduate to talk about what to expect when they get home and help them to close this season of their life. We want them to feel prepared for whatever they go home to and to be able to see all that God has done in their lives during their DTS. It was pretty amazing to look at them at graduation to see how much God has changed their



Saying Goodbye

lives and all the potential and options that are before them as they move into whatever it is that God has planned for them. I miss several of my students, but I know that God is now taking care of them.

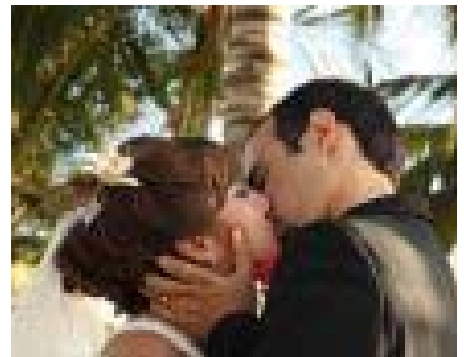
SHORT-TERM TEAMS: I am now working with the teams that come down for a week or 10 days on mission trips. They often build houses with our Homes of Hope program and/or work in orphanages, the prison, feeding centers, or doing street evangelism. With one of the teams that came this month, we worked for 3 days in an orphanage with a focus on handicapped or disabled children. The kids were so precious and so excited to be with us. The team really wanted to bless them, so they bought a DVD player and some movies, took on some work projects, cleaned up the orphanage, and gave out toys and candy to all of the kids. More than even just the kids, the workers there seemed to be really blessed. I really connected with one of the workers and got the chance to encourage her a lot. She has been working there 5-7 days a week, depending on the need, since they opened 5 years ago. I was amazed by her heart for those children and for God, and by her attitude as she served them—cleaning, cooking, giving baths, getting them dressed, resolving arguments, and keeping them entertained. She really inspired me and I feel so privileged that God used me to encourage her back.

AREY AND ISAAC'S WEDDING: On March 20th, my best friend, Arey, got married here in Mazatlán to a guy from my DTS, Isaac. It has been so awesome to see them get together, walk through life together, and now get married. The wedding was so beautiful and perfect and I was honored as they asked me to play for and lead some worship in their



Bachelorette Party

wedding. Sometimes it's hard for me as many of my friends back home are getting married and I can't be there, so it was nice to be able to be there for Arey and support her in everything. Although I'm sad to lose my best friend in some ways, I am so excited for her and Isaac!!



PRAYER REQUESTS:

- for the DTS students as they transition back into life at home
- for vision and strength as I work with the short-term teams that come through the base
- for clarity as I pray about different opportunities in my future

That's about all for this month. It's always nice to hear from you guys as well—that always brightens my day! Hope you are all doing well!

Dios les bendiga,
Cassandra

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