

¡Hola Todos! January 9, 2010

¿Cómo están? ¡Feliz Año Nuevo! Happy New Year! This past month has been such a great ending to a year full of surprises and growth. Looking back on this past year, I'd say that it didn't end up being at all like I expected, but God grew me in incredible ways and I really learned about His faithfulness.

GETTING READY FOR DTS

A lot of my time this past month was spent on preparing for this January DTS. I am in charge of hospitality for the school (which pretty much means I'm in charge of anything having to do with our guest speakers) and I'm our DTS secretary (meaning I do all of the paperwork stuff during the school and deal with the University of the Nations' requirements). So this past month was full of meetings and prayer and discussing how we wanted this DTS to look and how to make it work that way. It has been a bit crazy trying to get everything done, but on Jan. 4th our school started with 12 students (11 girls and 1 guy). We are really expecting God to do new and great things. A lot of things about this school are different than past schools, the most obvious of them all, the fact that there is only 1 guy and the school is so small. At first we were a bit worried about Sam (our 1 guy student) but this week it has become obvious to us that God knew what he was doing in this. Several girls have commented about how this is an answer to prayer or really good for them to stretch them to have more girl friends. So we're super excited about what God is going to do over these next 6 months.



HOLIDAYS

We really had a lot of fun over the holidays this year! For Christmas, we did a Secret Santa gift exchange and a White Elephant Gift Game, made and ate lots of food, hung out together, played games, and watched "It's a Wonderful Life." Even though it's not the same as being at home with family, we really had a good time with our YWAM Mazatlan family. Our September DTS students were still here so there were probably like 30 of us in our directors' house. For New Years, the DTS had already left on outreach (to South Africa and Mexico City) so we were significantly smaller. A couple that lives here in the city, owns a couple Looney Bean Coffee Shops and is from California invited us and several other people over to their house for New Years. So we had a big potluck and hung out there for awhile. Then I scooted over to a family from the base's home where several of the staff were playing games and we hung out and played games until almost midnight and celebrated the New Year there!

TEAMS

Even though I'm not really working with Homes of Hope anymore because of the DTS, I went a couple days with some teams this month when several people went home for Christmas. My favorite day was

when I went to the Colonia Sinaloa (the neighborhood we've been focusing on this past year) with a team and helped them out with a Christmas party for the kids there. We had over 80 kids come and had only planned for 70, but God multiplied our supplies and we had enough for everyone! We fed them a special Christmas breakfast, did several crafts with them, and gave them all presents at the end. It was super fun and all of the kids were blessed!

PRAYER REQUESTS

- for safety and affectivity in our outreach teams in South Africa and Mexico City
- for the students in our Jan DTS, that they'd be unified and go deeper with God
- for grace as I am doing so many different things in this school, that I could get them all done and have time to really invest in the students' lives

Thank you all so much for your prayers and support! I have been so blessed by you guys over the years and really appreciate you!

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Cassandra Dec. \$_____

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