

DI Guatemala & Kenya Update



From December 1st until 22nd I was blessed by the opportunity to travel to Guatemala and Kenya.

In Guatemala we were a team of 9 people of which 6 were from Canada and 3 from Mexico.



The trip started out amazingly with the opportunity to share with a native Guatemalan girl on the plane sitting beside me. She had been living abroad in Spain and was going home after some heartbreak. She had been to a Christian school as a child but had felt religion was forced on her. We started talking about who God is and trusting in him and she broke into tears. She was arriving in Guatemala with no money hoping to find a way to get home and our team was able to bless her with bus fare. It was a practical example of what we were talking about that God is trustworthy.

Working alongside the three Mexican brothers was also a highlight. They travelled by bus 30 hours to join our team and their work ethic for the Lord is inspiring. The fact that we can communicate so well with most of team not speaking much Spanish and they not speaking much English is amazing.

Some highlights from being in Guatemala include when I was with a group sharing door to door and Ismael who works with our Mexico team was

sharing the bridge illustration with a group of young people on the street.

I was drawing out the diagram as he talked. One of the girls was particularly paying attention and asking questions. An older woman I am guessing her grandmother, came up to her and said "get back to work". This young girl ignored her at first and then the grandmother again said "get back to work". This time she responded I am listening to the Word of God. I will work after".

At the moment it made me think of Mary & Martha. This young girl was choosing what was best at the time: to hear the Word of God. After Ismael



finished the gospel message she prayed to receive Christ and then returned to work. The local church members who were with us took down her name and will follow-up with her.

In Tiquisate one of our Canadian team members, Vinay, was preparing to share a message during an evening church service. The power went out so he shared while the Pastor held a flash light over the Bible. It was an inspiring message and two minutes after he finished the lights came back on. God was truly allowing him to speak light into darkness. You get a sense of the experience in the picture on the left.

In Kenya I arrived one day before their first graduation ceremony for completing the two year Equip To Serve discipleship program.

I was excited and honored to be the speaker for the event and when the time came was amazed at the organization and by the excitement of the students.



The church was filled with family and friends to the point that people were standing outside the church. If you saw the video of the way the 58 graduates entered the church you get an understanding for the way this culture knows how to celebrate. It is available to view on my facebook page.

The way they treated me is as close to feeling like a celebrity I will probably experience and it was honestly quite overwhelming. I spoke on the race of life that Paul in his letters so often speaks of, that the call of the Christian is to finish strong by remaining close to God through faithful obedience.

At the end of the talk I handed batons to each of the leaders commending them to go and make disciples of Kenya, Africa and the World.

After the graduation I was able to travel to the coast of Kenya with the graduates to the city of Mombasa for a time of sight seeing and celebration. It was a time for me to build relationships with the group in a less formal environment. We visited the ocean and it was exciting to see them all buying shorts to go for a swim as many had never been to the ocean before.

The fact that I was traveling and sightseeing with a group of 58 Kenyans was also an awesome experience as I got to see it through their eyes. I went to places like the Mombasa market that few white people would go to. In fact I didn't see one other the whole time I was at the market.

God was tremendously faithful throughout this trip and I was blessed to have done it. The day before leaving Kenya I heard that the airports in London and other parts of Europe had been shut down by snow and I wondered if I would make it home for Christmas but God was amazing and all my flights left on time even though many others had gotten stranded. Since this was the first Christmas with three of our children it was a blessing from God that he got me home in time.

I am looking forward to returning to Kenya in July with a team and continuing to work alongside these faithful brothers and sisters.

Blessings to you and your family as you serve Him in 2011.

Travis Whims

