

Romans 1:16a – *For I am not ashamed of the gospel, because it is the power of God that brings salvation to everyone who believes*

I went on this trip to Renacimiento to push myself. I have never been on any kind of mission trip and wanted to get outside my “comfort zone”. God calls us to spread his word throughout the world. I have felt a pull over the last year or so to put that into practice. Not to mention that I love soccer and the idea of getting to play soccer with some kids and young adults in Mexico is pretty exciting. It gives us a way to connect with them (and they are good too).

This trip was extremely successful in my eyes. It is clear that God is working in this community. We have built a relationship with the community and specifically with Casa Samuel, the local church and social service organization.

The structure of this trip works very well too. Some team members went down on Wednesday and some on Thursday. I went down Thursday night after work. We were then able to spend the entire day on Friday and Saturday in Renacimiento and come home on Sunday. I know several members of our team have done this before and everyone agrees that it works well. It is relatively easy to schedule around your work and family responsibilities at home and still have plenty of time in Renacimiento. Those two days will take a lot out of you too. It is fulfilling and draining at the same time.

This trip accomplished several things. There was a visit by two members of the Governors office when we got there on Friday. Our trip gave Casa Samuel more credibility in their eyes and convicted them to provide more support for them and that community. They will be approving a water permit that has been “in process” for several years as well as working toward extending the land lease for Casa Samuel to 99 years. That is pretty cool stuff.

The principal of the elementary school also invited the team back this summer to participate in their graduation ceremonies. They appreciate all that we are doing and they want us to be a part of their community. They have shared with us that this is very important. While a one time mission trip somewhere can do a lot of good, to repeatedly come back to this community builds trust and faith between us.

But most importantly, ten women accepted Christ as their Lord and personal Savior on Saturday. The women on our team did a fantastic job sharing and witnessing to the women of this community on this Mothers Day weekend.

I will definitely go back on a similar trip. I am looking forward to going on a house building trip as well. I think it is important to continue to build the relationship we have started with Casa Samuel and Renacimiento. As Christians and as a church body we have a responsibility to go where God calls us, locally, regionally, and internationally.

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