

Mission Follow Up

Hope Sanftner – My Missions trip to Valles, Mexico

Dear friend,

The mission's trip to Mexico was amazing. I loved every bit of it from the drive away from my house to the drive back to my house. The mission's team did a lot of things in Mexico. Some of the things we did were: go to the teen stop, work in a church, go to a village in the mountains, as well as fun activities. Going to Mexico is definitely a life changing experience.

One of the first things we did was go to the teen stop. Both my pastor in youth pastor spoke to the teens. Before they spoke all the teams gathered in a circle and played a numbers game. Every number, you said in the game was obviously in Spanish and if you messed up you had to sit down. The surprising thing was, I was the last one standing. It was exciting to win a game in Spanish with people who speak nothing but Spanish. After the message all of the teens got to hang out and play games. I played foosball with three kids and got the chance to talk to a few others. Some of the people I talked to also go to the same church that we worked on.

There was a lot of work put into that church. A couple of things we did were stained cabinets doors, paint walls, and build kitchen cabinets. It was hard to make the cabinets on uninsured concrete with uninsured cabinet doors. But my youth pastor had it all under control being the great carpenter he is. The cool thing was the cabinets were so big I could crawl inside it, which I did for fun. We worked on a church for two days and headed for our next adventure.

Going to the village in the mountains was truly a great adventure. I cannot explain the beauty I saw on the way up the mountain. It was like you were in a dream, but only it was real. When we got to the village you could see all the little kids coming to see who was there. With us, we brought suckers, starbursts and Jolly ranchers. When I gave the candy to kids, their faces just glowed. To see their smiles and to hear their laughter was so amazing. You could tell they were truly thankful. This brought joy to my heart. I'll never forget their glowing faces and smile that stretched from ear to ear. The people in those villages were so fun to be with, and much more fun as the trip continued.

Not every hour of the day was spent working, but building a relationship with our missionaries Wally and Diane. Wally and Diane took us to two fun events. One of the things we did was go to Mexico State fair and Vallas. If you think the Minnesota State fair is fun, you should go to the Mexico State fair. The other thing we went to were the ruins, called the pool of Edward James. There we went hiking, swimming, and we got to see amazing waterfalls. It was so peaceful. Going to Mexico was like finding peace.

In the United States, everything seems so crazy. When I got into Mexico, everything felt so relaxed and peaceful, like nothing could harm me. The people that I met in Mexico were so nice. Going to the church on Sunday was one of the best times I had. The guys greeted us ladies with a handshake and the guys with a hug, ladies greeted the ladies with a hug and a kiss on the cheek and the guys. A handshake all speaking this sweet words God bless you. With all the people I met I felt a connection with them, like I had known them all along. They already had felt like my family. It was the greatest feeling. I got more out of the trip than I expected. I just wanted to go to Mexico to serve and help out with whatever needed to be done but this trip helped with what needed to be done in me.

Without your prayers or donations, I would have not been able to a cop which the school. Thank you so much. You do not know how much this meant to me. I like to continue my adventure with utilize summer camp, June 18-23. The cost of campus \$225 and is well worth it. I think everyone should go. All I ask for is your prayers and accomplishing this next goal. Thank you and God bless you.

With Love,

Hope Viola Sanftner

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