

Aug 5, 2007

Notes From Dan and DeAnn!

Learning, Climbing and Diving in

The Acapulco cliff divers are truly impressive to see. These divers first must scale the rock cliff barefoot, next they chose their launching point, and then dive...from over 110 feet! They only dive however at just the right time because the tide goes in and out. If they dive at the wrong time the water is too shallow...and they either are injured or worse.

This is a fitting metaphor for what happened at the Acapulco Summer Project. There were 28 students at the project. We started with some very basic trainings like how to share your faith and how to tell your own

story of faith. (These really are the footholds the students use as they climb.) Alongside this the staff invested in the students through times of mentoring and one on one discipleship. Next the students went out in evangelism groups, trusting God to lead them as they developed relationships with people in parks, playing basketball, in classes of aerobics or salsa dancing. (The launching point!) The goal was to truly develop friendships so that they could bring the medicine of Jesus to the wounds of the heart. (The diving in!) These students had some perfect 10's!!! One young man, struggling with homosexuality came to Christ and they next morning dusts off his Bible to share with his drug-addict cousins. Two girls bring their friend who just happens to be from the same town as one of the students in the group and through that connection all three come to know Jesus. A group of 15 break dancers become friends first with the students on the project and then become friends of God. Ramses shows up at a new park one day and within four hours has seen his need for a savior, put his faith in Christ, and is at a Wednesday night service with the students at a local church where he connects with the pastor and signs up for weekly Bible study.

One story in particular that shows God's hands in this project is that of Ernesto. He had just moved to Acapulco from Mexico City for his health, as he is over 60 years old and the altitude and climate in Mexico City were taking their toll on him. Ernesto played basketball daily in one of the parks. He knew everyone in the park and everyone knew him. They all called him "abuelo" or "grandpa." He connected with the students and with Dan. Dan was able to share the gospel twice with Ernesto but while he did not receive Christ he promised to read of the gospel tract various times. Three days later in the park, Ernesto told the project students that the tract had impacted his life. He said, "I know you haven't been able to share this with all the people in park yet and you are leaving. Could you give me the rest of the tracts you have and I will share with the people you missed?" Ernesto has already connected with a local church and has started attending. His move to Acapulco had brought loneliness but God brought a group of students at just the right time to share with him how Jesus never leaves you. Now Ernesto, a life transformed by the gospel, is using his influence to reach others in Acapulco!

Thanks again for your prayers! God worked in this project to make is truly amazing!

Here is the whole Acapulco Summer Project. Lives were changed and students were challenged. Thank you for praying!

