

## Notes from Dan and DeAnn

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## Fall Retreat was different this year in a couple of big ways!

There is a little church in a small border town. They planted in a community in desperate need of a kingdom presence. Many families in the community are recent immigrants and are easy prey for the cartels who work in and through that area. In fact, the church is located directly across the highway from a known human trafficking and prostitution location. They are very literally a light in the darkness!

We were invited by this church to come and serve instead of doing our typical fall retreat. Fall retreat is always fun and always makes a difference in the lives of our students and this held true this year as well. But alongside our typical activities we labored both physically and spiritually. Part of the church's focus is serving about 40 children on a daily basis. They provide food and a safe environment for them. The church asked if we could bring down Christ-following college students so that the children could see that a college education was possible and that college isn't just a dream but could be a reality for them.

Our students did a great job! They taught, shared the gospel, and showed God's love to these little ones. And the physical service we did was to paint the church's youth education building.

On top of those things we trained our students on how to share their faith and how to engage with people on spiritual things. We trust that God will use our time with the children for their good and that our students will come back more ready than ever to see God move back on their campuses.

Thanks for being a part of this. We are grateful for your partnership and prayer!

**Photos:** On the right you see students getting trained on how to share their faith. This training incorporated lots of Scripture and practice. I love that our students get this type of training because it translates to home, school, work and more.

Above left: Painting the children's building. We arrived thinking we were painting a small shed type structure. Well...this was a full sized building. Fun!

Above right: We split the kids up into little groups. I got to be a part of the "sports station." This gave them time to run around and get their energy out between the Bible lesson and the Bible story and craft times. It was also interesting because for most of these kids their first language was Spanish—so my Spanish got a workout that day!



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