April 5, 2010

iHola Todos!

How are you guys? This month has been a bit different, but God has been so good through it all!

HOMES OF HOPE (HOH)

This month we had a

revolutionary thing happen in our Homes of Hope ministry. A local church, Amor y Libertad, raised all the money for and built a home with us!!! Ever since we started this ministry, it has been on the ministry director, Edgar's, heart to see churches in Mazatlan get involved and build homes for the people of their city, and this month we saw the beginning of that happen!!! I have been able to get involved with this church as well, so it was an extra big blessing for me to be able to go and work with them on the build site for a few days. The coolest thing about the whole ordeal was seeing Mexican people breaking out of their poverty mindset and helping their own people. They built the house for a family from their church that had been praying for a long time for a house. The week before they decided to build it for them, the family had figured out that with their current income it would take them 20 years to finish their home, and then 20 days later we got to hand them over the keys!! After years of working with the HOH





ministry I still cried at the dedication ceremony ... it was precious!

SEMANA SANTA

This year's process for setting up our spring break week's ministry was a bit crazy. All year we had been planning to organize an extreme sports

camp an hour outside of the city focused on reaching non-believers, but a week before the camp started we had to change our plans. I don't know if you've seen on the news that Mazatlan has had increased drug violence recently, but the people of the city are generally fearful of what is going on. We, personally, haven't been directly affected and I'd say that no one on the base is afraid, but the city is. So we prayed and felt like it wouldn't be very effective to have a camp outside of the city because (especially most parents believers) would be too afraid to release their kids. So....we changed our plans and focused on encouraging the youth from the local churches to pray for their city. We had more than 20 kids come and we even saw one youth get saved!! We still played fun games on the beach and went paintballing, but we also went to different key places in the city and interceded for Mazatlan, asking God to bring peace. One of the coolest things was, at the end of the 4 days, hearing the testimonies of the youth about how, the first time, they experienced God's heart for the city and really cried out for Him to do something about what has been going on. Many of the youth also shared about the sacrifices they had made to be able to come, some selling their possessions, others working extra jobs; it was so inspiring

to hear afterward how much God rewarded them for their faithfulness.

GETTING READY FOR OUTREACH

We leave for outreach, first to Mexico City for 2 weeks and then onto Haiti for 7 weeks, on April 20th, so we've really been working on preparing ourselves. We've had prayer times together, been learning stomp routines, dances, and dramas, been getting to know each other more, and doing many different fundraising activities -- I've been crocheting and selling hats, others have been baking and selling cookies, some people did a car wash this weekend, one girl has been giving manicures and pedicures, etc.



PRAYER REQUESTS

- that all of everyone's outreach money would come in (it's due on Friday)
- for our plane ticket prices not to go up before we can pay for them and secure them
- for wisdom and strength as I get ready to lead the outreach team

Thank you so much for everything!

Dios les bendiga, Rcv'd in
Cassandra Mar. \$

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