

Feb. 21, 2010

Hello Mission friends,

This was a beautiful relaxing day full of warm sunshine. Some of our team went with Kim to set up for the V.B.S. that will start tomorrow on the side of the church. When they arrived they were overwhelmed by the work the local members had already done. The church itself was cleaned to sparkling and fresh calla lilies filled vases throughout the church. The area where VBS will be was transformed from a place that had possibilities to a place that was going to be perfect. They had moved a huge stack of wooden boards that had been stored there and made areas and backdrops for the projector and for the puppets to perform. So much work had already been done on it in cleaning and clearing. There were about 25 adults and children present and helping out. When our team showed up with all the crates of supplies and equipment they were ready and eager to help carry them from the truck. Even two of the smallest children insisted on carrying a tote together. Canopy type tents were set up and chairs placed and ready to go. The spirit there was good and the unity of all was very inspiring. Kim thanked Bob for once again for being right on his choice and direction. There is a little joke amongst the team about Bob and Eric always being right in their direction and some good hearted teasing goes back and forth. Mary felt called to have all of us gather around Kim as a group and pray for her ministry this week, so she lead out on that. This part of the ministry is as important as the main meetings. If Jesus doesn't come first they will end up being our future leaders for Jesus.

Dr. Marteres took Dr. Roy, Delores and Erica to his home in the city of Tabasco,. He wanted to show them where he lived and he also took them to a beautiful Catholic stone church built back in the 1500's! they stayed for the sermon and said it was excellent. The topic was on "the golden rule" and the importance of accepting all people no matter where they were from. So their arrival was rather perfect for that sermon.

At our evening worship we were blessed to have 11 year old Alyssa speak to us about Paul and Silas' work. She also gave us a testimony about how she and her brother Dillon were saved from being hurt in an accident because they chose to follow their families rules. I know angels were sitting in the room with us smiling and cheering her on as she glorified Jesus and His Kingdom.

After dinner we all headed to the University auditorium to present the donated gifts for the school. Art Cheney Principle of an SDA school near Nashville usually comes with us but had to miss this trip. His students raise money to buy many items for sport activities to bless their Mexican counterpart. So we had box's full of soccer balls, basket balls, Frisbee's , nets, and ball inflators. Last on the list of gifts to be presented to the school by Bob was a donation of \$500.00 from Berkshire Mission . The roar of cheers that went out was almost deafening. This was without a doubt the most enthusiastic group of young people we have ever seen. They cheered and clapped through every thing. The school Pastor interviewed Bob during the program and then asked each team member to stand and tell their name and home state. Well the applause each individual received was just mind boggling. There were only 2 people who received a slightly different

greeting. When Kim stood up and told her name and introduced her daughter Amy, the clapping and cheering was not enough. Along with it came the sound of many young male voices saying "Hi Amy!" And of course we all chuckled over that as Amy tried to slink down in her seat. The rest went normal until the very last person was introduced and that was Pastor Rigo. Oh my, you would have thought Elvis himself had been found alive, thin, and wrinkle free! The girls literally screamed and waved their hands in the air just as I remember seeing young girls do over Elvis! He was very embarrassed of course but handled it well. Later Bob thanked them for their enthusiasm and let them know that this handsome man of God was also a husband and father, he also wondered why they hadn't responded to him that way, but I think it was because gray hair just isn't the "in" thing down here (well, accept with me, I still swoon over him). Before the evening was complete I had been called up to give a talk of encouragement to the students and spoke to them of the importance of education and faithfulness to God. My time was not as light hearted and fun but it was taken to heart and received very well. The boys dorm dean has asked if I would come and speak with them alone tomorrow and I have agreed. Before we left the auditorium the students were invited to come up and speak with us personally if they desired and many did. The main questions were "how do I become a missionary, and what are my next steps to take?" they were such dedicated and sincere students that I am certain angel wings were fluttering throughout that room watching these touched young hearts.

Well one story had escaped me until I was back in the dorm room and called in to hear all about it. Little Dillon was slightly in shock and his face almost a permanent red when I saw him. Seems that two young Mexican girls followed him onto the auditorium stage and each planted a kiss on his cheek almost simultaneously. His father Jeff was able to get pictures of this happening and I am thinking of selling the evidence to the highest bidders. I am sure our local papers at home would be interested, at least our church members for sure! That night, 9 year old Dillon leaned over his bunk bed and said to his dad: "do you know what it is like to receive your first kiss at 9 years old on stage? A double smoocher?" Don't worry Dillon, I am only planning on telling 3 or 4,000 people and I needed a new retirement plan anyway and those pictures will help me so much deary.

Oh God is good and He always supplies wonderful memories and moments of laughter to ease some of the pain we feel seeing so much hardship and suffering on these trips.

"come unto me all ye who labor and are heavy laden and I will give you rest unto your soul." That He has done!

Thank you for reading and supporting us as we are so far from home. We miss and love you dear family and friends. Please, keep writing to us with your words of encouragement, it is so important to us and lifts our spirits so much.

Because He lives I smile on,

Jennifer Young, Mission Reporter

God promises a safe landing, not a calm passage. And if God is your co-pilot, swap seats!