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## COLOMBIA TRIP REPORT

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My first trip to Colombia was something that God used to refresh my soul, and give me strength to see beyond the church in America, and have a passion for what is abroad. However when a second trip was planned, I was thrilled, but nervous when I found out that I would be leading this trip with my college students.

In the upcoming weeks leading up to the trip, I had my reservations about what we would be doing in Colombia, and whether or not we would accomplish the goals that had been set for us. Spending maximum time at the Children's Home was top on the agenda. However, upon arriving in Colombia I was informed that we were going to be visiting several prisons, and that the time with the kids was going to be limited. What made matters more difficult was that we would be bringing one of our women to a medium security prison...I was not sure what to expect.

That first night I prayed and trusted on God's sovereign will to work all things out in accordance with his will. I went to the team in Colombia and submitted myself to their schedule, and told them that we would joyfully serve them in whatever way possible. This was the beginning of God doing many amazing things.

Our time with the kids was rewarding, I had never before seen college kids and little kids wear themselves out day after day. I also got to see college kids' hearts be transformed from self-centeredness to selflessness. Each one of them knew that they were being stretched, and they sought to serve one another in any way possible. The heart transformation that took place there is still being seen to this day!

The thing that rocked us most about this trip was the kids' testimonies. It was a sweet grace to see God at work in the hearts of these kids, and getting a glimpse of our own hearts and how often we forget that God's power is real, and available to help us in our time of need. We went there to minister, but came back ministered to.

Our visit to the prison was also a highlight for us. We were allowed a glimpse at the revival and redemption that God is doing in the prisons. We experienced worship like we never have before, or since. The trip to the prisons allowed us to see God at work in all of Colombia, and brought to us a wider vision of what could take place there. The prisoners were so thankful for our visits, and we were grateful for them allowing us access to their church.

We also got a chance to visit a refugee camp that turned out to be a great blessing too. We took a tour of all the shacks in the neighborhood, and we also got a chance to play with many kids from the nearby school. We gave the kids some shirts we brought, and the candy we had purchased. I got to share the gospel with a couple of them and prayed.

I have to say that this trip truly was amazing. We were able to minister to the kids as well as the staff living at the home. We listened to their life stories, give biblical counsel, and prayed for them. I got to witness the birth of Christ centered hearts in the lives of our college students, and a humility that I had not seen before. I saw my students pull together to accomplish some great things and it has me wondering what could happen if a great challenge was presented to the college students here at home.

I think that many people underestimate what God can do through a group of college students...but I on the other hand have seen that they are capable of great things if we let them be.

The children's home is truly an amazing place. It is hard for me to say that we go there to do ministry, when the reality is that it is the other way around. We have been blessed by them, and it is to them that we look to see what a Christian witness is all about. Thanks for letting my college students be a part of this trip. I look forward to more interactions with the Children's Center. It is our hope to take another team.