



2016 Mission Recap



On March 12th, 2016 a team of 9 people departed from Daybreak Church in Carlsbad, CA to spend a week serving the beach communities in El Salvador. This year we were focused on building new relationships in the beach community of Majahual, strengthening existing relationships with Remar Orphanage, Iglesia De Dios in Play San Diego and our partner La Red Church in El Tunco. Our primary encouragement to those we encountered and spoke to throughout the week was the Armor of God that is described in Ephesians 6:10-18.

Our team was built of people that were looking to "get out of the boat" and take a step of faith. Many of us were taking on new experiences throughout the week, and to see the impact on those we served, as well as ourselves was amazing to say the least. What we learned, through having a doctor on our team, is that the healthcare system in El Salvador is broken, especially for those who cannot afford to go to a private doctor. The people lack the education that we here in the states have so readily available at our fingertips, and even if they do know what they should be doing, lack the resources to be able to do it.

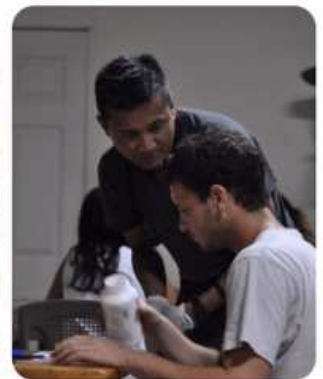
The week was truly amazing and what follows is a daily recap of our faith filled adventure in El Salvador.



Day One: We spent the first half of the day sponsoring a Sharing Waves Surf Camp with the children of Majahual. The kids listened to a message about striving to achieve their dreams, and that anything is possible with God on their side. This is such an important message to these kids as their dreams can easily be extinguished given their circumstances and the lack of positive influences in their lives. It was a great time that was capped off with some beach soccer. That evening we went to Remar orphanage and bought our friends some pizza for dinner. We spent time reuniting with the kids we connected with last year, and establishing new friendships as well. It was a night filled with smiles, laughter and some no holds barred basketball (fouls don't exist here!). An amazing start!



Day Two: We spent a majority of the day at Remar Orphanage beginning with Jessica and Whitney sharing encouraging messages to the teenagers at El Olivo School during their chapel time. They shared about the struggles they faced as teenagers with the lies the world convinced them to believe, and how freeing it was once they grasped hold of God's love and the truth. We spent the early afternoon doing an Armor of God lesson with the kids at the orphanage and a necklace craft. That evening we were back in Majahual at a Christian Surfers meeting where Mitch shared a message about anger he experienced in life that was ultimately resolved through prayer. He learned to love better through God's word. We were then honored to pray for the people attending the meeting individually.



Day Three: We started the day delivering groceries to and praying with families in Tamanique. Some of them are facing eviction, severe health challenges and/or are just struggling through their circumstances. It was incredible morning and more impactful for us (and I pray them) than I could've imagined. The 2nd half of the day was spent at La Red, where Jessica and Whitney shared a message to the women of the church about replacing satan's lies with the Truth and doing a craft with them. During that time, Dr. Ian was running a clinic in one of the rooms. He was able to see 55 women and children who were suffering from dehydration, parasites, depression, anxiety and fungal diseases. We were able to provide medication to all of them throughout the week. The need here is real!



Day Four: We began the day running another clinic for the children at Remar Orphanage. Dr. Ian was able to see over 30 boys and girls ranging from infants to 17 years old. These kids were so full of joy even though they were suffering from headaches, rashes, dehydration, parasites and general body pain. The afternoon brought a soccer match and a lesson for the kids of Majahual. The men on our team played beach soccer with some of the local teens, a few of which were most likely associated with the local gangs, and had an absolute blast! After the match, Anthony shared his testimony about accepting Christ over his adolescent gods of sports, alcohol and anything else that led down the wrong path. It was an amazing message that these young men needed to hear.



Day Five: We spent the whole day with Pastor Orlando of Iglesia De Dios in Playa San Diego. Pastor Orlando serves his community to the best of his ability, providing lunch to 60-70 women and children as often as he can each week and providing a safe place to learn about God. We provided pizza, bananas and drinks for lunch, as well as a lesson on the Armor of God, a necklace craft & Pinatas for the kids. We finished the day having a conversation with Pastor Orlando about how we can help him with his family and ministry. The only requests he made were assistance with improving the electricity in his small home that houses 8 family members, and help with replacing a keyboard and sound system for church services. Your support will help us to provide these simple needs!



Day Six: We spent this whole day with the people at Remar. Jessica, Whitney and Andrea blessed the women that serve these kids daily with a much needed spa day. Giving them hand, foot and shoulder massages, some treats, gifts and much needed respite. We then provided lunch to everyone that calls the orphanage home. In the afternoon the men on our team took 15 teenage boys from the orphanage to an adventure park. Eric and Donovan gave a message on the Armor of God, and then we all took part in a high ropes course. We encouraged these boys and helped them with teamwork. This would be only one of a few times in a year that these boys would be outside of the orphanage walls. It was a special day for all of us, and one that won't be soon forgotten!



Day Seven: Our final full day in El Salvador began at our partnered church La Red in El Tunco for service. Pastor Salvador delivered a message about happiness and joy. The world tells us that we find that through material things, partying, and indulging in the here and now. But what you think will bring you joy now will ultimately leave you empty in the end. True joy is found when you begin to focus on the eternal, leading a life of example, avoiding sin and loving others as God loves us. Afterwards we had time to fellowship over lunch with the Castellanos family. They are truly a gift from God to this community and to Daybreak Church. We are blessed and honored to have them in our lives and we look forward to many more experiences together in the future.



These are the faces of our friends at Remar. It is always hard to say goodbye, but it is also a very special moment. Tons of hugs, pictures and loving petitions from the kids for us not to leave. They gave us notes that told us how much we mean to them and that they will be praying for us. Think about that for a minute...these kids, most of them taken from horrific circumstances, are encouraging us and praying for our families! They are truly amazing and will always hold a piece of our hearts. We will dearly miss these faces, this community and the Castellanos family...until next year.

The Armor of God:

¹⁰ Finally, be strong in the Lord and in his mighty power. ¹¹ Put on the full armor of God, so that you can take your stand against the devil's schemes. ¹² For our struggle is not against flesh and blood, but against the rulers, against the authorities, against the powers of this dark world and against the spiritual forces of evil in the heavenly realms.

¹³ Therefore put on the full armor of God, so that when the day of evil comes, you may be able to stand your ground, and after you have done everything, to stand. ¹⁴ Stand firm then, with the belt of truth buckled around your waist, with the breastplate of righteousness in place, ¹⁵ and with your feet fitted with the readiness that comes from the gospel of peace. ¹⁶ In addition to all this, take up the shield of faith, with which you can extinguish all the flaming arrows of the evil one. ¹⁷ Take the helmet of salvation and the sword of the Spirit, which is the word of God.

¹⁸ And pray in the Spirit on all occasions with all kinds of prayers and requests. With this in mind, be alert and always keep on praying for all the Lord's people.

Thank you for your support, prayers and encouragement for the team throughout our time in El Salvador. Please continue to think about these beautiful people, the struggles they face and our ability to help, no matter how big or small. Without your support, none of what we accomplished while we were there, or what will be accomplished even after our return, would have been possible.

Forever Grateful,

Daybreak Mission Team El Salvador 2016