



Mission Recap



On April 11<sup>th</sup>, 2015 a team of 11 people departed from Daybreak Church in Carlsbad, CA to spend a week serving the beach communities in El Salvador. The primary focus of the mission was to provide financing and some labor to assist in the completion of a bakery at Remar Orphanage in La Libertad, El Salvador. REMAR (Rehabilitación de Marginados, or simply put rehabilitation of those considered outcasts, such as orphans, drug addicts, alcoholics, etc.) is a Christian organization that was started in Spain in the 1980s and has since expanded into 65 countries worldwide. Through orphanages, women's homes, and rehabilitation programs, REMAR ministers to those who have been abandoned and nurtures them physically as well as spiritually.

The Remar Orphanage in La Libertad currently has 75 orphans that call it home. Although these children have been placed here by the government, Remar receives no government support in its operations. It currently has a chicken operation, tomato farm, and a beauty salon. The bakery should be completed in the weeks just following our return and will not only serve as a source of revenue, but also a place to teach the children skills they can use in the future: baking, business administration and operation, hospitality, etc. The bakery will be open to the public and be a huge blessing to the orphanage and the surrounding community.

Enclosed is a brief summary of the amazing week we spent serving these beautiful people.



We visited Playa San Diego on Sunday and provided a feeding program to 70+ people. Pastor Orlando and his family open their doors Monday-Friday to serve lunch to the children of this community (which for many will be their only meal of the day). We were able to uncover some needs that he needed to better serve his community, and committed to sending him \$2,500 to fix the on-site bathrooms. The generosity of our donors and supporters allowed for us to be able to bless him with this much needed repair.



We were also able to spend some quality time with the kids there, playing games, doing some crafts and, of course, giving them a piñata to attack. The children also learned a lesson about the Fruit of the Spirit: "But the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, forbearance, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness and self-control. Against such things there is no law." Galatians 5:22-23. The whole day was amazing, and a great way to start our mission in El Salvador.



What a blessing it was to us to be able to spend as much time with these wonderful children as we did. Although there was a lot of work to be done, every break was spent building relationships through playing games, throwing water balloons, playing some soccer and basketball, and just time learning about one another. These children never hesitated to give you a hug, no matter how sweaty or dirty you were. They were just happy to spend time with you. It was really hard to leave and I can't wait to return to them next year.



On Saturday we partnered with 100 Smiles Project and Puro Surf to provide a surf camp for 25 of the orphans. Although they live a quarter mile from the ocean, most have only been there a couple of times and many are not able to swim. This was another amazing time of joy for these kids. The smiles on their faces as they learned about never giving up on their dreams, and that anything is possible with God on your side, was incredible. As you can see, some are natural surfers. Can't wait to do another surf camp with them next year!



Our work on the bakery began on Monday and ran through Thursday. Our job was to prep and install the front patio that would eventually be the primary entry to the bakery for the public. We had to dig a trench for the footing, pour the footing, build and then backfill the retaining wall. Monday and Tuesday consisted of trenching, which was a bit challenging with a hard wood tree in our way. Once we got the root system out of the way, it took 12 guys 2 hours taking 15 axe swing sets to knock the tree over. Once that was complete, we made cement the old fashioned way (shovels and the ground), the footing was poured and we adjourned for the day.



Thursday's focus was backfilling the area. The challenge being that, all of the dirt was about 300 yards away (uphill) from where we needed it to be. We developed a fireman's brigade and moved 9 yards (18 tons) of dirt with 5 gallon buckets. It took us about 6 hours and over 300 buckets to get it done, but it got done. A few girls from the orphanage wanted to join in, but when we resisted at first for their safety, they returned a dozen strong. They filled their buckets with sand for the top layer of the backfill and carried it all the way to the site. It was amazing to see their strength: physically, emotionally and spiritually. The next day the slab was poured.





When scouting out additional projects at Remar, the women on our team saw a need to bless the women who serve these children every day (9 women take care of the 75 orphans day in and day out). They gave these women some much needed respite with a spa day, complete with pedicures and massages. It was truly a blessing to them. Mary (above center) runs Remar and she loves and cares for every one of these children, knowing all of their painful stories and helping them in every way that she can to heal and grow. Salvador (bottom right) and his family (Andrea bottom/center) are our partners and host for this mission. They are a blessing to El Salvador!



Lastly, we partnered on this project with a group out of Canada called 100 Smiles Project. We met the founder, Elly Pham, at Remar in El Salvador during our 2014 mission. She has a huge heart, and truly loves these children. Elly and her team raised half of the financing for the bakery project. It was amazing to get to know her team and to work side by side with them throughout the week. They were amazing partners and we plan on working on more projects together. I can't wait to see what the future holds.