

# The Vineyard's Costa Rica Mission Trip

## Friday's Update

Hey Vineyard family and supporters!!

We have just completed our second day in Costa Rica! Today was a great day full of work and ministry. The students were MUCH more energized and ready to go after a full night of sleep.

We started out the day with a group devotion with our host, Delynn. He read 1 Corinthians 10:31 which says, "So whether you eat or drink or whatever you do, do it all for the glory of God." Delynn explained that in everything we do, the purpose is to glorify God. He challenged us to think about this throughout the day as we continued to work on the park and church. We then went into some personal quiet times with God where many students were able to reflect on what it meant to glorify God and what that looks like on this trip.

After quiet times, we had a delicious breakfast of gallo pinto, which is the rice and beans from dinner last night mixed with a type of salsa. A lot of the students were skeptical about eating rice and beans for breakfast, but they really enjoyed it! We then packed our lunches and headed out to work!

When we arrived at the park/church, we started right where we ended yesterday. We continued to paint the walls at the park and got some more gravel laid in the area where the church services will be held. A group of students also put together the tents where the church services will be held and put those in place. It looks great and will provide some shelter for Pablos's church members! We finished a good portion of the work in the morning and then took a break for lunch. It was nice to relax and take a look at what had been accomplished! There were many comments about how different the place looks today than it did yesterday. It's amazing what a fresh coat of paint can do!

After lunch, the majority of the group continued working, but a small group of students went with a couple leaders to different houses around the neighborhood to pray with people and invite them to the concert tomorrow night. The responses were phenomenal! In the United States, a general response to a random stranger (especially strangers from a different country), would probably be negative. Here in Costa Rica, there were many homeowners who welcomed our prayers and even offered food



McKenzie Vandervort, Michael Schwartz, Anna Mcbeth & Abby Reverman continuing to paint at the park.



Chelsea Leichter sketching a mural for the park.

and drinks to us as we spent time with them. It was great getting to know the people of this community, despite the language barrier! Many members of the community are excited about what's being done at the park and were very grateful for the work our team has put in. Glory to God!

When we had all finished with the house-to-house prayer and work at the park/church, we got together as a group and prayed for the event tomorrow afternoon. After we finished praying, Pablo's wife and another friend surprised us with empanadas! What an awesome treat! They were homemade and delicious and provided an opportunity for us to sit with the family and interact with them. Pablo's family has been so hospitable and welcoming, it's truly been a privilege to serve them these last couple days. After we finished our empanadas, we took about 15 minutes to pray over the event site. This included the area where the church services will be held and the park where the actual concert will take place. The team split off and walked around each site while praying blessings over the day tomorrow. This was such a powerful time and God's presence was overwhelming. Following the prayer walk, the team as a whole was more excited, had more energy, and felt more prepared for the event tomorrow! We are confident that God is going to show up in major ways and can't WAIT to see what He does! We know His plans are bigger than anything we could ever imagine and we are so blessed that He chose us to be part of it!

When we got back to the house, we ate rice and beans and a beef dish for dinner. We then got together to debrief the day. All the students had wonderful things to say about the day and there were many stories shared about where/how they saw God throughout the day. We also talked extensively about the welcoming atmosphere in Costa Rica and how all the people are very friendly and genuinely care about each other. Delynn talked about how Costa Rica is a relational culture, which is very different from the United States, where a lot of our concerns revolve around material things. In Costa Rica, people are generally more interested in their families and relationships than anything else. It's been such a cool experience for many of us and something we are hoping to bring back to the US with us!

Currently, students are relaxing and chatting about the various events of the day before lights out. It's nice to have some time at the end of the day to "chill" before bed! I know the students are excited for the event tomorrow and about what God is going to do in this wonderful community! Please pray for God to move in big ways through our students, the rapper who will be performing at the event, and pastor Pablo. Continue also to pray for strength and energy for our team! Your prayers were definitely felt today, as we were able to work even harder than yesterday after a good night's sleep.

More updates tomorrow!! Thank you so much for your continued prayers and support!!



Austin Funk, Weston Vandervort, & Ryan Little tampering the gravel.



The new tent for church services.



House to house prayer.

Matt Poorman



A few of the guys  
enjoying their  
empanadas.