

# The Vineyard's Costa Rica Mission Trip

## Tuesday's Update

Hi Vineyard family and friends,

Wow, it has been a wild ride! God has been doing amazing things in my heart and through our ministry this week. I am so grateful that I had the opportunity to come on this trip and experience God in ways I have never experienced Him before.

Today started off with Delynn's daily devotional. Once again, it was amazing! I have learned so much from Delynn. This morning we talked about the great commission in Matthew 28. If we are going to make disciples, we have to be a disciple first. First of all, there is no clause for the great commission. Everyone that is a follower of Christ is required to make disciples. Secondly, the first word of the great commission is GO! We, as followers of Christ can't just sit around and wait for other Christians to share God's love. We have a responsibility to show the lost the love of Christ. If we don't move, we don't grow. We need to get out of our comfort zone. This message was very challenging for me. Over the last couple months, I have felt as if God is calling me to stop being so selfish, quit worrying about my reputation, and show the love of Christ to God's children. Even though my spiritual gift is definitely not evangelism, I, as a follower of Christ, have the responsibility to do my best to make disciples. During my personal quiet time, I knew God was calling me to reach a new level in my relationship with him so that I can bring others to him. If I am going to make disciples, I need to be a disciple.

After my amazing God time, we all sat down for breakfast. I was so excited to see the huge bags of cereal in the kitchen! Don't get me wrong, "gallo pinto" is amazing, but I definitely enjoyed a more traditional breakfast. After breakfast, we piled into the vans and headed to La Cuenca.

La Cuenca is one of the poorest parts of Costa Rica. Matt has been talking to us about La Cuenca throughout this whole week and has been encouraging us to prepare mentally. I wasn't exactly sure how to prepare, but in my quiet time this morning I kept praying that God would give me eyes to see, ears to hear, and that he would break my heart for what breaks his.

When I first saw La Cuenca, my heart dropped. It was a neighborhood, if you could call it that, full of houses built with tin



John, Anna, Lindsey & Leah getting ready to pick up trash in La Cuenca.



House to house prayer.



Pop give away.

and wood. In a way, it looked like a huge trash dump. It was as if I stepped into the "Feed the Hungry" commercials. While walking through the neighborhood and seeing all the young children, my heart broke. Why has God blessed me so richly, yet given these kids so little? I am so blessed, and I take so much for granted.

After an hour of picking up trash, we grabbed a few 2 liters of pop and went out into the community giving out pop and praying for anyone that would let us. I was pleasantly surprised. Almost every family we asked welcomed prayer wholeheartedly. If I was in the US going door to door and asking if anyone wanted prayer I would be turned down more than half the time.

After processing the different reactions, I believe that because we are so blessed in the US, we are more independent and don't feel like we need prayer because we have everything we need, when in reality God has given us everything we have. In La Cuenca, many people need to have someone to depend on and rely on. God is always there for them. After house-to-house prayer the "fun" began. Soccer Tournaments. If you know me at all you know that I am not coordinated what-so-ever. However, Mr. Matt Poorman stated that on a mission's trip I "can't say no". I still believe this is ridiculous, but I suppose I am required to step out of my comfort zone for Jesus. Anyway, after 10 minutes of complete and total embarrassment, I got to sit back and watch other people play like champs and then head back to our home away from home for dinner!

Pablo and his family joined us for dinner tonight. We were all excited that we got the chance to see him and his family again. They have blessed us in so many ways. After dinner, we all laid hands on them and prayed that God would pour out his blessings on their lives and their church. I am confident that God will continue to use Pablo and his family in powerful ways.

Since this is our last email, I want to give you a rundown of our plans for tomorrow. We are going to be getting up at 5 a.m., have quiet time and breakfast, and then head out to go white water rafting! I am super excited! After white water rafting we will drive back to Delynn's to pack and head to the airport. Please pray for safe travel on our way home!

I am so grateful that God has given me the opportunity to come to Costa Rica. I have grown so much and fallen more and more in love with Him. I wouldn't trade this experience for anything. Thank you for all your prayer. I can't wait to see you all soon!

God bless,

Leah Pope



Mike Steinke playing soccer with the "Ticos."



Gabby, Michael, Wes & Chelsea picking up trash.



Group prayer for Pastor Pablo and his family.



View of La

Cuenca