

The Vineyard's Costa Rica Mission Trip

Thursday's Update

Hey Vineyard Family & Supporters...

Just wanted to give up an update on the first day of our trip to Costa Rica. So here you go...

The team of 13 students & 3 leaders all met at the church at 9pm Wednesday night to pack up, get some final instructions, and head out for our final destination of San Jose, Costa Rica! Everyone was, for the most part, on time and we took off about 9:45pm for the O'Hare International Airport in Chicago.

I was a little worried because, as some of you know, we began to have a snow storm Wednesday morning in Mishawaka and I was worried it would either delay our arrival at the airport or even our flight. But...God is good because only about 45 minutes to an hour west of Mishawaka the roads were clear and we made great time getting to the airport.

I will say...it is amazing how easy it is to travel (even in a large group) when your flight leaves at 2am! ☺ We got through check in, baggage check, and security in like 30 minutes - ALL 16 of us! So we had a couple of hours to burn before our flight left. Some slept....others played cards...and others just chit chatted to pass the time.

Once we boarded we all ended up sitting together as a team, which was great! The flight lasted 4 hours, which most of us took advantage of for some sleep.

We landed then in Guatemala City to catch our connecting flight...again with no issues at all. And ultimately landed in....Costa Rica with ALL OUR LUGGAGE! Praise God!

We then headed to Pastor Pablo's church, which is the pastor we are here to assist and partner with. When we arrived, we met Pablo and his family, were divided into 3 work crews and given our working assignments for the



Weston Vandervort, McKenzie Vandervort & Mike Steinke enjoying their flight.



Beans & Rice and Pollo y Papa for lunch



The team enjoying their first Costa Rican meal together.



afternoon. WE HIT THE GROUND RUNNING! Some painted in the park across the street from the church, others picked up trash & did general landscaping in the park, and the final crew began to dig out the grass to prep for gravel for where the church will now be meeting when we are finished. We made GREAT progress!

We then came back and had dinner, which was chicken potato rice soup! It was also very good! The team is now showering for the first time for many of them in more than 24 hours and getting ready to get some serious sleep since most of them only got about 2 hours throughout our travel.

I think everyone is feeling so far very accomplished with what we got done today. God really helped us because there is no way we could have done all of what we did on our own with how tired we all are! We are looking forward to what God brings our way throughout the rest of this week in a cultural unlike our own! And we are already seeing people in the neighborhood take notice of our efforts!

Pray that not only will they take notice, but that we will also have an opportunity to share our lives and Christ with them throughout this week as well as we have a concert for them, do some servant evangelism including house to house prayer, and invite them to attend church with us on Sunday!

Thanks so much for your prayers...they are being felt! And, thank you to those of you who supported the students or the trip financially! You have give them an opportunity to expand the Kingdom of God in the lives of others as well as their own. Thanks!

Well I am going to head to bed myself. We will write another update tomorrow!

Matt Poorman

Before and after pictures of the painting at the park.



Before and after pictures of Zach Gisi and Mark Brown digging up grass and laying down gravel.

