

Sr High Mission to Guatemala Look at what you helped accomplish!

As you most likely know, the Sr High recently spent a week in Guatemala; building houses for the poorest of the poor, feeding the homeless in a local shelters, giving love and attention to babies in infant malnutrition centers and visiting homes with social workers. Ian MacBryde has brilliantly summed up the week in the following blog post.

A Few Impressions from One of the Most Memorable Weeks of My Life

Julie Bakker's determination as she carried two buckets of cement across the work site. And then did it again. And again. And again. And her constant concern for others... The brilliant smiles of the children of Guatemala amid the overwhelming poverty... Alli Tappana didn't freeze when she was confronted by danger; she frightened it away... I stand in awe of what God's Child is doing, but, Geez, can't we ever get anywhere on time! Kristy Osburn is a rock... Daniel Tappana talking to an infant cuddled in his arms: "...and nobody really likes the Cubs..." I really admire Cathi Boyd... Ben Perry's remark that he admired the generosity of the poor of Guatemala to each other... Kelly Murphy's heartbreaking story of the horribly maimed man from the Homeless Shelter who gave a few coins to a little girl begging on the street... Thomas Crown, who was tireless on the work site and always ready to bail me out of trouble... Dan Herren makes me laugh... Ted Miller, Michael Rich, Casey Murphy—all of whom reluctantly took babies to hold—all of whom really warmed to the experience. A couple of them had to have the babies practically torn away from them... Ben Wagon playing tag with a little boy at the Dream Center... Meg Florent refusing, absolutely refusing, to give up her shovel as she mixed cement and mixed cement and mixed... Lilly Bakker's smile... Kevin Williams' devotion to the mission... The natural beauty of Guatemala... Maeve McCarthy playing with little kids at the worksite... Beneath that tough, intellectual, stoic exterior there is a very kind Walter Buhro... The poise of Tori Hudson—what a great person she is... Andrew Keyes had some bad luck on the trip, but he never stopped smiling... The toughness of Emily Wunsch who, on a social worker call, climbed a mountain that just about finished me off... If you're ever looking for Elliot Belloli, just follow the laughter... Julia Clark is one cool lady... Bubbles and water pistols on the work site... Jerry Ernsky is a great dad and a terrific companion... Dana Ernsky is a great daughter and an asset wherever she goes... I feel good around Josh Csolak... When B.J. Cummings walks in he lights up a room... Anyone ever wants to know about Emmanuel Youth Group? Show them Sara Edgar - member of the Youth Group, Peace Corps in Bolivia, volunteer in Bolivia without government support, and, on very short notice, a terrific leader on this Mission trip. Wow... The sounds of the work group for Team D: "Are you all right, Ian?" "Ian, are you OK?" Thanks, guys. Uno, dos, tres...DOMINATION!"... The wonderful opportunity to get to know a little bit better some great kids—Reina Ortiz, Irene Wilson, Meredith Howard—you are all important parts of the team, and we were lucky to have you with us... Michael Knox looks like what he is—a really solid contributor... Team B had Dana, and Kathryn McGuire, and Charlie Koors, and BJ. No wonder they got so much done... Youth Group is important to Anna Martin—and she is very important to Youth Group... Gary Tappana's love for all mankind and the tears streaming down his face as he finally put down the little boy at the malnutrition center knowing he had to walk away.

Of course, left out of these insights is Ian MacBryde's incredible passion for helping others and his ability to encourage and build others up. His eternally positive attitude and tireless work ethic were an inspiration for our group.

Without the support, prayers, hard work and contributions of each person at Emmanuel, this trip would not have happened. This was truly a life-changing experience, and an opportunity for our youth to live out Emmanuel's vision of being "Deep in Faith, Rich in Love, Bold in Mission". Thank you.

To read more thoughts and insights, both during and after the trip, please visit our trip blog at emmanuelSeniorhigh.blogspot.com.

