

Brazil Mission Trip Reflection

This being my first mission trip, I must say that I enjoyed it very much and also come away from it with a sense of accomplishment. When I was deciding on whether to go or not, I wrestled a lot with my motives for going. I wasn't sure why I wanted to go exactly and wondered if I wanted to go simply because going on a mission trip would be good experience for me. Eventually I understood that I ought to go to Brazil because it's what I should do; it's what God would want me to do, and because I had the means and the opportunity to go, I ought to.

That being said, I went in with a lot of uncertainty and a lot of doubt, but I asked God before I left to simply use me however he wanted and to use me for his work, whatever that meant. What I discovered then during this trip was that God really uses everything you have if you willingly submit yourself to him and remain open to what he has to do through you. He will use whatever you have prepared, no matter how little or how much that might be, and use it for one thing or another for his work.



This became very clear to me especially when preparing and working with the kids for the Vacation Bible School. I must admit that I felt unprepared and doubtful when we arrived in Brazil because I didn't feel as if we had been able to prepare for the VBS as well as we could have. Needless to say, we managed to find some use for almost every single item that we brought along and that all the planning that we did do came in handy. What was also amazing was that

there were many times
bring in my previous
and also use my own
contribute towards the
definitely a testament of
from being able to draw
games; God was able to
order to reach out to the
working with and I
our work and through



able to work in each of their lives in a different and unique way. He truly did not let anything go to waste as each day we would look at all the materials that we had brought along with us and every time there was just enough material for everyone or there would be something that we brought that we thought would be obsolete but actually came in handy.

where I was able to
knowledge of things
personal talents to
VBS which was
God. Even little things
or know good group
use everything I had in
kids that we were
believe that through
our being there, he was

God was also able to use my own personal gifts and skills for his work which was very encouraging and amazing to see. Going into the mission trip I had very elementary speaking

skills in Chinese and I knew at the very beginning that these two weeks were going to be challenging for me because we would be called to speak a lot and also share. Although there were definitely a lot of times where I stumbled over my words, I think God was still able to use what little communicating skills I did have to still get some sort of message across, especially during the seminars when I had to share my testimony with the group. God also helped our team overcome the language barrier by providing us with translators whom we didn't know were going to be there and that certainly helped us. Their knowledge of English also allowed Kristian and I to interact and bond with them and it was very encouraging to see their kindness towards us.

The trip was also planned very well with each day possessing its activities but not the point where the work was too overwhelming. I feel that we were able to remain productive but were not too busy either as each day had its moments of work mixed in with moments of rest and relaxation. Although two weeks is a short time in reality, I feel that it was a solid two weeks where we were able to accomplish things. I appreciated the opportunities where we were able to be tourists and appreciate Brazil as it was and it was definitely a pleasure to try the local cuisine. It was also very nice of the church and Happy Kids to provide lunch for us each day.

I definitely come from this trip with a deep sense of appreciation and gratitude, both for the people in Brazil and the team. The two weeks gave us an opportunity to speak with many



different people and it was very encouraging to see people who are passionate about serving God in Brazil and reaching out to the communities there in a variety of ways, whether it be through practical outreaches such as the medical clinic to creating a new congregation to meet the needs of the Cantonese population. Our team was treated very well as guests and all our hosts were very gracious and hospitable towards

us. As a team I think we were able to work pretty well, even though there were very few times where we were actually called to work together as a complete team. While I will admit that there were some disappointments and shortcomings, I think that in the end we were able to come together well and accomplish things so it's all good.

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