

Greetings from Guadalajara! I've been thinking for the last few weeks about what words I can use to sum up or describe what the summer has been like for me. We often have teams come up with one sentence that could give a glimpse of what their time here meant to them or what they learned. I think for me my one sentence describing the summer would be *'I saw God bring change'*. Allow me to expand on that....

Changes happened on many different levels.

The RETO church looks quite different after a construction team visited from Visalia, CA here in late June. Old cement torn out, dirt levelled off and suddenly there is a beautiful new multi use sports court. I am excited for the new possibilities (weekly kids clubs, open sports times, movie nights) to use this court to reach out into the community. *Pray that God would use these opportunities to open doors and build relationships with our neighbours.*



Hosting teams back to back (and overlapping) from early July until mid August brought a change in schedule and in the pace of life. While it was



exhausting, it was also very rewarding. I saw God bring change in the lives of many short term participants who spent time here in GDL this summer. Here are a few examples of their 1 sentence summaries: **“I learned to look for Jesus more”**, **“I redefined my relationship with God”** and **“It was a great lesson in continuing to learn the call to love and serve.”**

The teams that we hosted helped out with 2 week long day camps, an English camp, a sports camp, social ministries such as a prison visit, visits to an indigenous camp, time spent encouraging men at a rehabilitation centre, evangelism in parks, prayer walks, and youth ministry. I believe that changes happened in many lives throughout these interactions even though I don't know of all the changes – *pray with me that God would grow the seeds that were planted this summer.* Chuiy and Lorena who attended the English camp have been faithfully attending church since the camp ended – ***God is bringing change into their lives and hearts!***



Eight of the youth here in GDL had the opportunity to join the visiting teams this summer and participating in almost everything the visiting team was doing – allowing both the Mexicans and the Canadians to appreciate and learn more from each others' culture. I have seen change in terms of ***commitment to God and in understanding their own gifts.*** They were blessed and encouraged to see young people from another culture serving God and seeking to know God better.

It was a great treat and change of pace to take a week of holidays with Sandra and 3 Mexican friends at the end of August. We spent a week of rest in a very peaceful and beautiful setting out in Mazatlan – about 6 hours away from Guadalajara. I came back very much refreshed and excited about this next season of life and work.



Not all change is easy. A dear friend of mine lost her husband in a car accident this summer. In a world full of change, it is comforting to know that ***God is constant and that He is the one that holds all of our tomorrows.***

So what will the fall look like you ask? *Pray for the changes that are on the horizon:*

...a new TREK team to arrive late October – we are in the midst of searching for host homes and planning ministry schedule

.... the dream of a training centre is moving forward!!! ***PRAY and DREAM with us as we begin to scout out the city to find land*** – more to come about this in my next letter.

Thanks so much for your continued support! I am blessed to have such a great group of people who cheer me on, make phone calls, give financially, send letters, and pray for me! **You are a HUGE blessing in my life!**

Jen

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