



Carolyn in El Salvador

May

Praises:

*Lucia, a new student that Brittany and I met this month, prayed to receive Christ. Please pray that she is supported well.

Prayer Requests:

*Please continue to pray for my six new teammates and I as we raise support this summer.

*Our coaches will be coming in a couple weeks to debrief us. Brittany, Brian, Jeff, and I will be heading back to the U.S. right after debrief. Brandon will be staying until August to finish working as the National Director's assistant. Please pray that we would end our time here well, and that God will prepare each of us for the change ahead.

Useful Information:

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"When God is going to do any type of work, He always begins by prayer." -Minister advising Billy Graham, just before the great 1949 Los Angeles Revival

"Lord, teach us to pray," (Luke 11:1) was our prayer and theme for Prayer Week. Most of the students involved in Vida Estudiantil helped plan and prepare for the week. All of us went into the week hoping to meet many new students. We decided to set up prayer stations in the classroom, where students could explore different aspects of prayer in creative ways: confession (Confesion), adoration (Adoracion), supplication (Suplicacion), and thanksgiving (Agradecimiento)... forming the acronym CASA.

All of us worked hard to set up the room. I was in charge of the confession station with one of the students I mentor, Marta. We wanted students to reflect on how Christ has covered their sins and forgiven them. We had the students spend some time writing down their confession. After crossing out their confessions with red ink, they ripped up their paper and threw it in the trash. They wrote their name on a tiny piece of paper and pinned it to the cross, symbolizing that Christ died for them. Marta made the cross out of cardboard. It was so beautiful to see the joy she took in using her talent to worship God. For the adoration station, Jeff created a slideshow of breathtaking photos he's



taken and paired it to worship music. Jairo, one of the students, set up the supplication station with violence statistics from different Latin American countries and pasted them onto a giant map of Central America. Everyone was prompted to pray for El Salvador and the other countries. I was shocked to learn that most gang members in El Salvador were raised in "Christian" homes. Jose Eduardo had students write down what they were thankful for on a giant poster. Brittany set up an area to relax where students could pray together or hangout. We also had a communion station and an area where students could communicate with God through art.

Notice I haven't yet talked about actually praying. Going into the week, we were very focused on preparing the stations and our desire to meet new students during the week. While a few new students trickled in, and one professor brought his whole class into the room to watch a skit performed by Manuel and Jeannete, the Vida Estudiantil community tended to occupy the room. Well, God answered our prayer. He intended to use the week to teach us how to pray. At one point or another during the week, everyone on staff realized, God didn't intend for the week to be an outreach; but the week was for us, the Vida Estudiantil body of believers coming together to simply sit before the Lord and pray. Personally, I was so humbled and challenged during the week. My highlight was going through the prayer room with two of the girls I mentor and, within the same day, hearing how God had answered a prayer of theirs! God answered our prayer, unified us, and challenged us to be men and women of prayer.

Thank you for *your* prayers. They are powerful and I'm so thankful that there are so many people praying for this place and for what God is doing. I look forward to talking soon! I'm coming home in about a month and am so excited to share more with you.

With Joy,
Carolyn Gardella

