



Carolyn in El Salvador

August 2010

Prayer Requests:

*Please pray for my team's transition and adjustment to life here in El Salvador.

*Wisdom in coming alongside student leaders.

*Guidance with how to most efficiently use our time now that we have a presence on 2 campuses.

*Our developing friendships with the Salvadorian Staff and team unity.

Dear Ministry Partners,

Seeing many of you this summer was so refreshing for me. I loved catching up and hearing about God's faithfulness throughout this past year. Another thing that I was so encouraged by is the steps of faith you are taking in investing in reaching university students in San Salvador. Thank you for partnering with me for another year. I hope you will be encouraged by the stories I share this upcoming year, because you are a part of them. I look forward to celebrating together how God draws Salvadorians to himself, transforms lives, and makes a lasting impact on this country, the world, and eternity.

The week we spent in Chicago at briefing was so valuable in equipping us specifically in the following areas while abroad: loving the Lord, loving the team, learning a new culture, and launching a movement on campus. I enjoyed the seminars, time to bond with my new teammates, and the opportunity to be with other teams preparing to head all over the world. My 6 new teammates and I arrived in San Salvador on August 19th. It was no short of a miracle once again to watch the Lord provide, especially in the final hours, and board the plane all together. Thank you so much for praying for us. The first evening in San Salvador we went to dinner with the summer project team which spent 6 weeks coming alongside student leaders on Matias University. We were thankful to have the opportunity to meet with them in person and hear the incredible stories of how God moved throughout the summer. They left us that evening with about 80 contact cards of students who are very interested in being a part of Vida Estudiantil. Praises they shared were that we are now on two campuses (Matias University has two campuses and previously we only had a presence on campus 1.), there are 6 strong student leaders on the new campus that have started up a weekly meeting and are actively sharing their faith on campus, and student leaders on campus 1 have started to mentor other students that are new in their faith.

One of my dreams for my second year was to see student leaders start to mentor and support other students. It's a delight to share how God granted me the privilege to observe this during only my third day on campus. Marcela, a first year psychology student, started walking with Jesus last semester. Marcela and I met weekly and I walked her through various lessons exploring basic aspects of the faith. When we first started meeting I explained the vision of this mentorship; to support her in her faith by helping to provide a solid biblical foundation, and equip her to share her faith and teach others. From the beginning, she was excited to teach other women. On August 26th, Marcela found me sitting on a bench on campus as she was on her way to her first meeting with Helen, a first year student who gave her life to Christ this summer. Marcela invited me to come along. After praying together, we walked to the cafeteria to meet Helen. Marcela took Helen to the garden on campus where she and I always meet. She walked Helen through a lesson on the Holy Spirit and the spirit filled life. It was so beautiful to see Marcela confidently share what she had learned through the same lesson only months ago. I felt so blessed that God would grant me the gift to be able to be there with Marcela during her first meeting. Please pray for the student leaders as they are stepping out in faith and starting to mentor other students.

I thank God for our partnership and for how we can be a part of His life-changing work.

With Joy,
Carolyn Gardella



Up: Team leaving for the airport

Bottom: Me with some of the students at our welcome party.



Useful Information:

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