



Carolyn in El Salvador



November 2010

Prayer Requests:

*Pray for us as we'll be preparing for the start of the new school year. We will be planning the semester with our 6 new student leaders.

*Please pray that God will prepare us to coach the student leaders well.

Praises:

*We just had a retreat for the student leaders. The students left the retreat excited about the vision, more equipped to lead, encouraged, and having sought the Lord during our time together.

Dear Family and Friends,

Happy Holidays! It's hard to believe Christmas is around the corner. In some ways it feels like it's been a long time coming, since decorations and lights were put up at the end of October. I'm excited to share some of the many happenings of November with you!

Us STINT women kicked off the month by going to The Women's Conference in Panama, planned by our National Director's Wife...Luchy Leiva. It was an incredibly refreshing week for me. I loved hearing about how God is moving all over Latin America. I returned to El Salvador with a renewed perspective on my purpose here and excited to see what God has in store for us on Matias University.

My highlight of the month has been four amazing food engineering students, who I have the privilege of meeting weekly with, whom recently started to walk with Jesus. Estrella started praying that God would bring her new friends...next thing she knew, she met some girls from the summer project team. Estrella, her sister, Belinda, and their friend, Mercedes, started attending Bible Study. Recently, Estrella was beaming as she told me about how God has changed her life since the end of August. She explained that she felt empty inside and would turn to things like boys and friends to fill this space in her. She had a deep longing to be accepted. Things at home had been really difficult due to some family trials. She needed hope. Through the Vida Estudiantil community and in the lessons she was learning in Bible Study, she started to understand more about how much God loves her. Estrella turned to me and said, "God is healing me and I feel so satisfied." By simply sharing the gospel with these women and teaching them about basic principles in the Bible, I've witnessed God transforming their lives. The girls read 1, 2, and 3rd John outside of our times together, and it's been incredible to hear how they applied God's Word to their life circumstances throughout the weeks: conflict with family, stress from school, discouragement, the list goes on. Recently, the girls invited their friend, Diana, to meet with us. Meeting with these women reminds me of why I am here.

Thank you for praying for us as we've been defining leadership structure in the movement! After many meetings and a lot of prayer we identified specific areas of the ministry that need leadership (i.e. outreach, prayer, social projects, weekly meetings, Bible studies, publicity, community events) and challenged 6 students to lead ministry teams for this next year! This is a huge step forward toward our vision of this being a fully student-run movement. I look forward to sharing more in my next letter!

Have a wonderful Christmas! I pray that your delight will be in this... "For to us a child is born, to us a son is given...and he will be called Wonderful, Counselor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace."- Isaiah 9:6

Con Amor (With Love),
Carolyn Gardella



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Pictures: 1) Belinda, Me, Diana, Mercedes, and Estrella. 2) The Team with Jamey (Campus Crusade Director at Cal Poly SLO) and Gretchen Pappas during our Fall Visit. They came to check in, see what God has been doing in VE and care for us...such a refreshing visit! 3) Women's Conference in Panama: The women from El Salvador. 4) Women's Community Lunch...18 students came. This ended up being a really successful way to encourage unity and depth amongst the girls.