

High School Panama Mission Trip, 2009!

This June a group of 42 students and adult leaders went to the jungles of Panama on a mission trip to preach Christ and share God's love. Our days were very full and filled with a variety of ministry activities. In the morning hours, we separated into several teams and did various work projects such as clearing jungle hillsides to help with a local school expansion, digging to expand a church ministry area, helped build a dorm at a Christian camp, cement work, cleaning and construction. In the early afternoon, we went to local schools and parks and presented the Gospel using a mime drama and student testimonies. We saw many children, teens and adults respond and trust Christ as Savior!

In the late afternoon, we were divided into four different teams and partnered with local churches to lead vacation Bible school programs. We held four the first week and four more the second week. We ministered to over 500 children through Bible stories, crafts, object lessons, games and singing. Many children were encouraged in their growing faith and a number met Jesus for the first time and gave their lives to Him!

Between the two weeks of ministry, we spent several days with an indigenous tribe called the Embree. We traveled up a jungle river in the heart of Panama to reach their palm leaved huts. There were about 90 Embree natives in the village of Picni. They were very kind to us and were very open to the message of God's love as we led a children's program and shared Bible stories with the adults. We also helped them build a huge stairway leading up to their village from the river's edge and cleared jungle so they could expand their village. It was such a unique experience - and so were the tattoos our students left with!

We also led services in four local churches using the drama, testimonies and preaching. When the invitation to follow Christ was given, at least seven in one church responded for the first time. It was amazing seeing God work through us!

We made it home healthy and happy. The high school ministry would like to thank each and every one of you who supported us through your prayers and generous giving. God used you to reach others through us. We are grateful to have such a supportive church that empowers its youth to experience such amazing trips such as Panama 2009.