

Report of Real Life Mission Trip to Guatemala May 20-27, 2023

We want to thank ALL of you who helped make this trip such a success and bless so many people – both in our team and also in the Mayan towns that we visited beside Lake Atitlán. If you ask any of our team, they will be more than happy to tell you about our experiences in detail! The brief video that Impacto Ministry made for us gives a great illustration of our week there, but here are a few key facts and highlights from our trip:



Donations – The many varied donated items filled **12 large suitcases** (also donated) weighing **over 500lbs** in total!! Also, a complete **set of Sunday school curriculum and other children’s ministry resources in Spanish** were given to each participant at the workshop (43 in all).

Monetary donations enabled us to pay for the **checked bag fees for all the suitcases**; provide **lunches for all participants** at the 3-day children’s ministry workshop (over 50 in all); provide a **special meal at the Happy Tummies program** for kids and guests (over 50 in all); provide a **bag of staple groceries for 3 home visits** (along with large bags of the donated items we had brought). In addition, Real Life paid for the **construction materials** to build a much-needed new storage room at the Impacto compound.

Highlights - Early morning devotions with Pastor Luis before breakfast.

Climbing to the lookout point behind the town to watch the sunrise.

Watching the local national champion team play Mayan soccer on the indoor court (ball can only be hit by hips or legs, not feet, and the goals are up in the air!!)

Seeing a demonstration of Mayan weaving; enjoying the sights of the stores and market; and riding the steep cobbled streets in a tuk-tuk.

The exhilaration as the van navigated over 2 dozen tight hairpin bends each time coming down to the lake from the surrounding mountains!

The men being flooded out of their dorm at 3 a.m. by a burst pipe in the wall!!

The excitement of the “shower lottery” – inexplicably random hot or cold water!

Experiencing the body ministry within our group as individuals pushed themselves past previous limitations.

The joy of fellowshiping and playing with new friends of all ages despite the language barriers and obvious extreme hardships of life there!

Seeing how God was with us and intervened in crucial moments – such as when a passport was lost and later discovered under the seat in the restaurant we had visited!

Developing friendships and a relationship with Impacto staff that we know will continue for years to come! Come join us on our next trip!



Here is a small collage of photos illustrating these points – yes, we have MANY more if anyone is interested!

