

A SUMMER LESS ORDINARY!

Mexico City 2008

August 2008

A Summer to Serve



The team was eager to serve and we did so in many venues—from a senior center for street people to a drug rehab VBS to an affluent high school to one of the most dangerous parts of the city to a college campus right next door— Mexico 2008 students never gave up. An MK2MK mission trip is unique because it is designed for children of missionaries. Sometimes they don't get a chance to participate in ministry alongside their parents, or sometimes they just need to see that their parents' faith works for them too.

Katie Rice, an MK from Hungary said: ***"Now I know why my parents are missionaries and why they love it so much. God has taught me that I love it too."***



"17 years old, Ray stood up during our time of sharing about ministry experiences at UNAM University and told us that a student received Christ with him today. His demeanor was humble but underneath you could feel his excitement. As he shared it took me back to a time when he

was much younger – I was at his family's home in France and his dad was telling me about the evangelism he'd been doing at a local prison. I realized listening to Ray that he is his father's son. *A heart for evangelism begets a heart for evangelism in our staff kids.* Letting Ray loose on the college campus next door, though he himself is not even in college yet, just gave him the chance to use what was already burning inside of him." (Donna)

This summer was unique for our team of 90 high school students, college interns and staff. Mexico City is the second largest city in the world, it is massive. Our living conditions were unusual—we had one washing machine to use, but only after 4 pm. We prepared a lot of our own meals and did our own dishes. God used these factors to build community among us, a community that was noticed by the watching world because we loved each other and served wholeheartedly. This is the next generation who will take up the baton to serve wherever God leads them. Be encouraged as you read their reflections of the summer....

What Did We Learn?

God showed me so many ways I can impact those I know for Him, even back home where I don't always think about ministry."

**Ben Clark, Japan
(starting college in USA)**

"I felt God closer this summer than in a long time. He taught me about His faithfulness and I know He has a plan for my life." *Amy Teinert, USA*

"I became more courageous and excited about sharing the gospel." *Jarrod Kahre, USA, formerly Hungary*



Our team included Rich Street, age 7, he loved sharing the gospel in downtown Mexico City!

Tepito

Tepito, an enclave of Mexico City, has a global reputation for drugs, mafia and prostitution. It is also known for its monthly festival of the dead.



Our team spent a lot of time in Tepito serving alongside local churches. "Something I really enjoyed this trip was working with the little kids at VBS. I got to be a story teller and that was awesome. I loved walking in and seeing their big smiles. I know that they don't live in the best situations. But when we ask them who wanted to ask God

into their hearts a lot of them raised their hands! The last day was so sad because they just clung to us and told

us we were great. I really hope they will keep trusting in God and that God will protect them. The head teacher there was telling us 40% of the girls there at the VBS were going to be forced into prostitution. A lot of their parents are involved in the mafia. *Susanna, USA formerly of Zimbabwe*



"Everything" Drama

One day the entire project went do to ministry at the Zocolo, an extremely old and wealthy area in the heart of Mexico City. Our group was assigned street ministry at a large park near a massive cathedral. We set up shop on the street and borrowed a music vender's speakers and did the drama to attract a crowd. When we were finished around fifty people were standing on that street corner watching. A student stood up and explained the drama; how this young girl turns away from God and runs into all sorts of bad company and misfortune before God steps in and saves her. When he finished, I stood up and walked into the middle of the circle and introduced myself to the crowd. I explained that I was going to share my personal experiences with the God that was in the drama. I expected that a majority of our mainly business suit attired audience would immediately tune me out and walk away,

but to my surprise only one or two people left and were quickly replaced by ten or twenty more people that were drawn in by the crowd. As I finished my testimony a little old lady came up to me and said through the interpreter that she wanted what I talked about in my testimony. As 60 or so people looked on, I led this little Mexican woman through the prayer to receive Christ. *Nic Ellis, USA, formerly Asia*



**"I felt like a missionary for the first time in my life and I gained confidence in sharing my testimony and God's Word."
*Hannah Neel, Hungary***

Sharing our faith at Monterey Tech

One key goal for the Mexico mission trip was to help launch high school ministry in the city. God opened an amazing door for our team to spend a week with high school students at the top school in the city, Monterey Tech. *Mexiquest* was a cultural exchange program a professor at Tech created for our group. For a week our students were partnered with Mexican students wanting to practice English. Field trips were planned each day of the week and friendship was the focus. Most of our team got to share the gospel with the students and we also hosted two parties later in the summer where we continued our friendships.

"I started the week unsure of how high school ministry would go, afraid that I would find nothing in common with these students. I didn't think that a rich, non-Christian prep school kid would be

anything like me at all. But if there's one thing that this week has taught me is that deep down we are all the same. I may have grown up in France as a missionary kid, but I am no different from them in that we all have the same basic desires for love and meaning and we all struggle with finding our place in the world. The only difference is that I have found truth in this world of darkness and despair, while they are still searching. And that is why this week is so important – we are all broken people and if through our time together even one student recognizes that what we have is different, it has all been worth it. Emily Ryan, France



Students at the Pyramids



Estela from Tech received Christ with Danica

Facing Poverty

Today, my ministry team went to a square where street people live. There were little kids, teenagers and adults. Most were doing drugs as we interacted with them. I met this girl named Mariana. She was 15, doing drugs, been abused by her parents, and had already had a baby. For the first time the realities of poverty and

evil became real. For the first time I was able to put a face and a name to the stories we're always told at school or church about poverty. I had no idea how to help this girl. All I could say was that God loved her and would always be there for her. I hope it helped. *Abby McClenahan, USA, formerly France*

iPods—A Tool to Help Us Share Christ!

Our team of high school students spent three days sharing on a university campus, the experience and results were extremely positive! 19 students received Christ! "I realized that sharing my faith really isn't that hard. Today we were at UNAM and we were showing global short films to students that were loaded on our iPods. It was so easy, just sharing what the movies represented to me. It was neat being able to share my life story, which is my testimony. Stu-

dents really listened and were eager to hear about our life. I have learned so much about sharing my faith and I can't wait to start doing it more in Russia." *Tina Harder, Russia*

"Our team led three people to Christ through the help of an agnostic translator. *Cam Harder, Russia*

"God heard and today, Ray and I working as a team, brought someone HOME!" *Ben Jackson, Hungary*

**"I really developed a hunger to learn more about God and my faith and His promises, and a desire to make my faith truly my own."
Emily Ryan, France**

A summer Less Ordinary!



Some resources to check out:

www.mysoularium.com
&
Globalshortfilmnetwork.com

"I learned how to be selfless and to put God and others before myself." Masha Birdsall, Ukraine

"My faith and love for God has grown so much and become real to me for the first time." Phil Sims, Asia

"I grew in trusting Christ in all situations and realizing that He is ready to use me as a tool in specific ways." Danica Kushner, USA

FYI: Every student created a ministry plan to implement when they get home!



Thank you!

Mexico 2008 could not have happened without you. God has done so much in and through each person on the team, and your part in this summer was every bit as vital as theirs. Thank you for giving to the Lord this way so that kingdom work could be done and the Lord glorified as He was. The support you entrusted to those sent was well invested and reaped a harvest beyond what we will know this side of heaven. In all, we saw at least 35 people pray to receive Christ as their personal Savior through one-on-one evangelism, and an enormous number of seeds

planted. Many were exposed to the gospel through large group presentations, the drama, and testimonies. We were able to leave many names of students both at the high school and University who would like to know more about Christ. God also worked in amazing ways in the our lives! The legacy you left by supporting this project is great indeed. Thank you!!!