

It's Monday? WHAT!!!

I can not believe that I am sitting next to Ryan typing up the last two updates for the 2015 D.R. mission Trip. Frankly it's impossible to find the words to describe the work that God has done in each of these students this past week. The best that I think I can do is take some time to highlight a few "God Sightings" that sum up the kind of week that we have had.

### **God Sighting # 1: Partnering with Ryan**

I have found that when two churches or two youth groups combine for an activity there tends to be a bit of a competition between the leaders. Heads butt and opinions vary on many issues. This week with Ryan that wasn't the case at all! I have thoroughly enjoyed Ryan's co-leadership and I hope that our students have seen an example of pastors "sub-leading" for Jesus Kingdom.

### **God Sighting # 2: Two youth groups becoming one**

At our final debrief session this evening Martires said that several community members could not believe that we were two churches. It warmed my heart to see the two groups become one as they worked in the community and chilled at the hotel in the evenings. Many words of encouragement were said during our debrief sessions that started with this phrase "When this trip began (name) I had no clue who you were....but...".

### **God Sighting # 3: Selflessness of our Students.**

There have been countless cases of this throughout the week but I'll share one example from today. After an afternoon at the beach enjoying some time to process the week in the clear blue Caribbean waters (I had to rub it in a little ☺) a couple members of our team received a decent sunburn. It's the last night here and everyone wants to have fun, yet every one of our "burnees" had a small posse surrounding them waiting to meet their every need. This kind of selfless attitude towards the community and towards each other has been one of the highlights of my week.

### **God Sighting # 4: Real...Spiritual...Impact**

I have had a number of great conversations with Highpoint and Crossroads students this week and I know Ryan can say the same is true for him as well. It has been evident all week that our students have been listening to God's voice and have been letting Him teach them. During the final debrief tonight several have shared how they have seen God work through Martires and his team, or through the people of El Almirante. They have talked about how they now know that they can't complain about being bored, and will not take their material possessions for granted. I also know that they will not be able to go back to their old lives as usual. As Martires himself said, "This trip has changed you and you will not be the same". How they let it change them is up to them and God but I know that they will not come back the same. God was at work this week in some very powerful ways, and I can't wait to see how it translates into everyday life back in Madison.

