

Sunday Recaps - July 10, 2016

Cole Riley

In the youth Sunday School class led by Mrs. Gillett we read from the book Joshua, Chapter 7. It talked about how achan sinned and how the temptations from other people got him to do things that he didn't think God would catch him doing. but in reality God sees everything you do even if you don't think he is watching.

Another lesson that I learned by myself is how the temptations are the same between all the kids even though we grow up in two separate countries.

The church service today was a great way to interact with people from another culture and see how they worship God. In a sense it is kind of like our Revelations service but up a notch. It was cool to see how some of our youth interacted in a way they may not have done before. Justin, Lauren, and Robert shared their testimony to the whole congregation. Kevin preached and shared a great sermon about forgiving, in difficult circumstances seek God, and seeking forgiveness.

This afternoon our youth and adults traveled to Kings Children's Home and it was a blessing to see the smiles on all the kids faces as our youth and adults played basketball, soccer, made bracelets and just had fun with every single kid there.

I am looking forward to the rest of the week.

John Cassibry

After sleeping off the exhaustion from traveling, parading, and settling in, we were finally ready to wake up this morning and experience a Sunday in Belize. For me, this is when the feeling of truly being back in Belize set in. There is just something right about worshipping amongst the bright smiles of the people of Port Loyola Baptist Church.

So, as every Sunday on a church mission trip should, we began by attending church. It started with Sunday school, in which the youth class talked about the struggles of temptation. Though Kevin prepared us for a Sunday school where we'd have to share our life story, testimony, and recite the entire book of Lamentations, my mind was put to ease when we did none of the above. Sunday school then turned into worship in which a lot of songs were sang. A lot. In one of the songs was a line repeated many times that said "My life is not my own, to you I belong." To me, these were powerful lyrics to begin a powerful service. Then came the song to promote Sunday school, in which I was chosen (by suggestion of Kevin Nunnery) to direct one side of the congregation in singing "we are so happy" which, though simple and quasi

insignificant, was a memory I'll never forget. Following the musical worship, Kevin stood up and delivered a terrific sermon, which he only had one day to prepare. Kevin was not comfortable with the amount of time he had, and I dare say he was not comfortable with the setting, which would be intimidating to all. Kevin exemplified a goal he set forth to us at the beginning of the week, which was to step outside of your comfort zone.

Following the benediction and lunch cooked by the women of the church, we departed PLBC and drove an hour outside of the city to play with the kids of an orphanage, which was a unique and unforgettable time. Though I ended up getting covered in cow poop, (it was an interesting experience, but I'll leave it at that) it was impossible not to smile, laugh, and play with the kids whose infectious smile warmed our hearts. After spending a few hours there, we said a hard goodbye and headed back towards the hotel where I am now sitting and writing this "dear diary" type blog post.

This day excited me, along with the entirety of the group, for the rest of the week. It's already flying by.

Chip Collins

Today saw a wonderful day of worship, fellowship and friendship. We spent the morning at Port Loyola Baptist Church, first at Sunday School and then the Sunday worship service.

The team divided itself among the children, youth, and adult Sunday school classes. The children's class had a Bible trivia game, in which the children of Belize put our assisting youth to shame. :)

The youth session was taught by Pastor Gillett's wife Stephanie, where the youth discussed the ideas of temptation and how to avoid temptation through our faith in Jesus Christ.

The adult Sunday school class was led by Sister Debbie in a wonderful lesson involving Jesus and the story of his apostles becoming "fishers of men." It was a powerful incorporation of the the movie "The Encounter" and how the encounters we have, both good and bad, are God's will and are intended to have an effect on us and inure to our benefit.

After Sunday school, we migrated to the beautiful sanctuary for an uplifting service of music, worship and testimony, one that felt like a perfect combination of our Revelations and Traditional services. We sang almost a dozen songs, listened to moving testimony from Robert Hogue, Lauren Groseclose and Justin Owen, and closed with an incredible sermon from our very own Kevin Nunnery based on the story

of Joseph and focused on the idea of forgiveness and its importance in our lives and to our own spiritual growth.

After a brief lunch, we traveled to The King Children's House, an orphanage about an hour outside of town. The team spent almost two hours with children of all ages, playing basketball and soccer, doing arts and crafts, and even listening to some original music played by one of the young ladies on the guitar.

We are only two days into our journey, and the joy that this country has brought to our team is indescribable. And that's before we have even started VBS! We hope that we have thus far, and continue to, bring joy to the people of Port Loyola Baptist Church and the surrounding neighborhood.