

## Mission Team August



August has certainly been a blessed month for Cocal Gracias and for us. Two mission teams joined us this month. The first team came from Gaithersburg, Maryland. Our good friends brought their staff and board members to see Cocal Gracias first hand and pray about how to partner with us better in the future. We stayed with all of them in Agua Caliente, which was a great place to stay. Rina cooked for the whole team and if you have been down on a mission trip to Cocal you know how good that is! They even made up a theme song for Rina and her delicious cooking.



While the team participated in classes at MLV, decorated our walls with bible verses, gave seminars, and visited Timothy Center, the highlight was a giant party to inaugurate the Vision Property in Palermo. This was our first event and contact with the community. MLV students and staff volunteered to help facilitate the event. We had a

jumping castle, corn hole, tug of war, sack races, face painting, water balloons, face painting, and free ice cream for everyone— for as long as the ice cream lasted and then it was free sugar soup! Pastor Brian helped us dedicate the property to the Lord. Many community members expressed gratitude for the event and their interest in classes and a future church to attend. I would say we are off to a good start!

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San Diego Mission church was our second group to come out right on the tails of the Gaithersburg team. They stayed 11 days with us, and we had a great time in ministry together. It was an all-guy team. We kicked off the week with a surprise trip to Siguatpeque visiting the water park where we held our 15-year anniversary party. We made sure everyone went off the zipline before eating the world's best ice cream at the Mennonite store. Over the weekend at MLV, my fourth level students spent a few hours speaking only English with the team. We were able to enjoy several testimonies from the team members and great worship. The guys helped build walls in a local house and installed doors. We also took three days to pour the foundation at the Vision Property.

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It is really official, not only did we have our first event at Vision Property, but we broke ground on the wall and poured the foundation! I am so excited to see the property take shape and thankful to the Lord. We need everyone's prayers for the second half of the property. The owner plans to break it up in lots to sell it, but I believe that the vision God gave us will overcome.

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The teams have been amazing, and we are so thankful to the members for joining us, and for the families that sent them. They really made a difference. So many students have commented about the teams they met. Berta was really excited to see Dean and Jerry return after building her house two years ago.

One of my favorite moments from these teams was holding service in Dona Olympia's house. Her husband recently passed away at the age of 109. She wanted service in her house. Right as we were about to load the truck with instruments, the sky broke open and it down poured an ocean's worth of rain on us. We picked everyone up in the bus and by the time we arrived soaked at Olympia's house, the rain had stopped. We all crammed shoulder to shoulder into her humble, little living room and without instruments we sang a chain of choruses. God showed up in a big way and it felt so good. Olympia gave me the news that after praying for over a year about what would happen to her house after Oscar passed away, she was now owner of her home. Praise God!

Thank you GCN, Mission Church, and Hope Community for partnering with us this year!

Brian

In light of our 15 year anniversary, wouldn't it be great to gain 15 more monthly partners? If you are on our list and would like to support the next 15 years, click the link below and become a partner!

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