

Colombia Week One #Complete!

Written by: Issy



After saying a tearful goodbye to Abby and Lily in the airport in Quito, we were soon greeted by our new Step coordinators Jessie and Judah in the Barranquilla airport, we were starting all over again. We excitedly got into cabs and headed over to the girls apartment that they are staying in for the next two weeks, the city of Barranquilla was already a stark contrast to Santo Domingo, the heat was 10x more sweltering. We ended our first day going out to dinner with Jessie, Judah, baby Henry and the youth pastor.

Introductions

Tuesday was a day to become acquainted with the work we would be doing with the different organisations that Jessie and Judah work with, as well as getting to know them better - we soon discovered that we had a busy but exciting schedule ahead. Although we faced a challenging first day due to some people struggling with their physical and mental health, we managed to lean on the strength of God at a time where we could do nothing else. We also went out to lunch and went food shopping for the week, already discovering that Ecuador had been an Oasis for cheap food. The day ended with a meeting about our desert trip to La Guajira next week, we are all so excited to visit the community there and see how God is working in such a small and faithful Christian community. The people we met then took us out for dinner for loaded fries (salchipapas) - the best thing we have ever eaten!!! The girls were then able to let off some steam and stress as they danced and sung to Mamma Mia that evening.



Wednesday came around fast and we were suddenly as busy as ever getting fully stuck in our work. We began our day learning more about the camps that we will be helping out with, as well as starting a mission series about 'Helping and not Hurting'. Issy, Liesel, Imi and Maddie then went to help out at the church at the new life stores spending a couple of hours sorting through donated clothes (even trying on a few ourselves). Noah, Anoushka and Phoebe went to the university to invite people to the CU, although this unfortunately didn't go to plan, so they then had the opportunity to go on a christian podcast with the youth pastor. The rest of the week continued to be busy but we were each blessed with a morning off at some point.



Thursday morning Anoushka, Maddie, Noah went to an English club at the university, this time have lots of success getting to help a group really practice their English skills. We all then joined Jessie and Judah at their apartment to discuss their campfire youth camps that are happening in



June and July, we created a promo poster, video and planned devotionals. Issy, Liesel, Imi and Phoebe then stayed to help out with Campfire Club, allowing people who are going to the camps to practice their English skills. We spent our time praying and playing a story game. On Friday morning all the girls apart from Maddie (who had basketball in the afternoon) went to El Pacto schools, getting to be involved in aiding the teachers teach



English to primary school children, while Issy and Liesel got to sing songs and and play hang man in English, Anoushka, Imi and Phoebe were plunged into the deep end and got to teach a whole lesson on 'I am, You are, He is...'. We quickly learnt what the Ecuadoreans had been telling us was true, people in Barranquilla speak very fast, especially children! While Maddie and Noah trained hard at basketball the rest of us headed to the biggest shopping mall and chilled in a coffee shop before spending too much money on new clothes and our second Latin American Maccies!

Busy but Blessed

Saturday was an early start for Imi, Issy and Phoebe who joined Jessie and Henry going to a mothers group. Despite the journey taking an hour and forty minutes, we were revived upon arriving as we were greeted by some very cute kids (as the Latin Americans would say, they were all chiquititos). We played sensory games with the kids, sung songs and danced. The mums were able to get a break from their kids as Jessie and one of the other helpers led a work shop for them. They were very grateful for our small gift and mothers day card. We then split into two different groups and went off to youth groups, telling people about the campfire camp in June and July where they can practice their English and get to meet up with other Christians. We all really felt the power of Holy Spirit and had an amazing time getting to know the youth. Sunday we were again split off into different groups, Maddie and Anoushka visited the church that the mothers group was held in (a very long day as they left at 7:30 and got back at around 3pm!), while Issy and Imi went to the church across the road that Jessie and Judah normally attend. Phoebe, Liesel and Noah then visited a third church. We all introduced ourselves to the congregation telling them about what we are doing here. In the evening we are then heading off to have dinner at Jessie and Judah's and this concludes our very first, hectic, Holy Spirit filled and exciting week in Colombia!



Prayer Points

- Ben has struggled with a migraine this week so we would appreciate prayers for his health
- Pray the team continue to adapt and settle in Colombia

