

A Different week in the Desert

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+ Issy + Noah

We started this week off with an amazing and very relaxing day at the beach. We enjoyed swimming in the sea, surfing, sunbathing, and living a day of luxury, apart from the pizza that was the thickness of a credit card. On Tuesday we set off on our ministries going to the collection of schools and helping out with the English classes. This is becoming a highlight of some of our weeks as we find it so rewarding and it is so special to help both the teachers

and the kids with their English. Others did 'Conversation Club' where they did a debate in English to help improve student's English. On Wednesday some of us headed to 'Mom moments' (the mum and baby group) where, despite the heat, we thoroughly enjoyed leading the crafts and helping out giving the mothers a break. Later in the afternoon we had a prayer meeting to prep for our exciting but slightly daunting trip to La Guajira.

Off we go!

We set off early Wednesday morning on a very long bus journey - 6 and a half hours! Over the next four days we encountered the strength and power of God, which we really had to lean on as we experienced things we were unfamiliar with. We have all grown so much in our relationship with God as we experienced an amazing call

to pray and call on the Holy Spirit as we attended different church services and got to pray for healing, and support small church communities in an area where evil spirits have a heavy presence. Noah was requested to preach on a morning in La Guajira, he was a little daunted as it was indeed his first time preaching. However through lots of prayer and preparation (on

Romans 5:1-11) the preach went really well, so well he had to do it again in the evening that followed. Noah was especially grateful to God to be able to speak and be a blessing to the community. The rest of us did a lot of kids work; we lead a very successful session on Daniel and the

lions den, including games, songs and dance, and obviously sweet treats. We also thoroughly enjoyed the treat of all having our own single beds after sleeping in quite close quarters for the past few months. Overall we did learn to be prepared without warning as multiple times we were invited up the front, handed microphones and told to sing. Luckily our Ecuadorean singing careers carried over and we managed most times (there is one time we do not speak of 😊). Most of the journeys we went on were very cosy often squishing at least 5 in the back seats. One day the pastor took us to a river where we had a lovely relaxing time in the cooling water and some of us got to try some

interesting new flavours: the menu included deer, desert goat, iguana (very tasty). On Sunday, as part of the (4 hour long!) service, Anoushka and Phoebe shared their testimonies to the congregation. All of us loved hearing them and were very

proud of their courage that it took to stand up and share in front of a large crowd. The people were very welcoming and on that Sunday we were invited to a community and a lovely meal was cooked for us and they were beyond generous with little gifts and a performance of an instrument.

