

Back to School + big up Britain!

Oh hey again! I know what you're thinking...another Step Report that your dearest family member / friend has made you read. But just you wait, because this week was not like any other week... because this was how week 3 of Colombia went down.

Monday - Is it a bird? Is it a plane? NO! It's 6 Latin Linkers making their way to another beach day. Calories consumed (Ben with his two burgers), Tans replenished and a beach ball lost (thank you Anoushka) resulted in a fantastic and relaxing day off.

Tuesday - Rabi Maimonides once stated 'Give a man a fish and you feed him for a day; teach a man to fish and you feed him for a lifetime'. - With that thought in mind, it should be of absolutely NO worry at all that we, the Latin Linkers, were in charge of the next generation's English education as we headed to the El Pacto schools.

There, we saw God's love and provision over his children and took inspiration from their eagerness to learn and understand different cultures, a characteristic which we should apply when studying our own bible. We have been able to connect with the children and teachers in such an amazing way, and have felt really encouraged to see their enthusiasm for learning English. Noah and Phoebe had a lovely CRU meeting at the university, whilst Maddie and Liesel attended conversation club where they all felt the warm Christian embrace of the local community.

Wednesday - Grab your energy drinks folks...it's a LONG day. Rise and shine, we're off to a school to advertise Campfire Colombia before we bought stuff for Mum moments, getting art supplies for our different themed days' - we have dinosaurs, under the sea, bugs and even rainbows. The day continued as we go to CRU (a bible study group) at university, slam dunk (or do ab exercises) our way through basketball ministry before we finish off the day with a meeting at Jessie and Judah's. That evening we got to listen to the Giovanna, a Brazilian missionary and learn more about what it means to help the communities that we work in.

Thursday rolled around quickly and Ben, Anoushka and Noah went to practice their English, or help others (who really knows!). Liesel and Imi got busy sorting through the clothes for the New Life store and we all finished our tiring day with a Campfire meeting where one team made a series of promo videos to get people excited about coming to camp, this involved a bin bag hitting Noah and Imi being wheeled away in a pram! Meanwhile the others came up with ideas for a theme night to end the camp with, and after debating long and hard they settled on cowboy/girl night.

It's Friday and we are back at the El Pacto schools where Issy continued to help shape young minds as she taught them to spell "fifty" as "fifhty" but oh well. Imi and Noah had a blast at a more local school, leading fun games with secondary school kids and advertising the campfire holiday camps happening later in June. We then all went off in the evening to a pizza party, getting to chat to other people our age at the uni, teaching them very useful English words such as shattered, knackered, leng, antisestablishmentarianism and defenestration, words we all hope they will continue to use in the future. We volleyball and were very quickly outshone despite our athletic ability.

Saturday was another busy day, as the bake-off commenced in Jessie and Judah's kitchen, in which Issy made scones, Anoushka made carrot cake, and Noah made cucumber sandwiches. Our judges? The guests at our English tea party we were hosting that afternoon. This was a lovely time where we got to meet new people, talk about our beloved UK and talk to people about faith and our camps.

Phoebe's English quiz was an absolute hit, stumping even some of the Latin Linkers. The evening was filled with visiting youth groups, where Issy led a devotional on Philippians 4 vs 4-9 chatting about the need to give our hearts of

gladness to the Lord, how the bible gives us clear instructions on how to receive God's peace, whilst Anoushka preached on James speaking about how we have to try Jesus for ourselves in order to know if Christianity is for us as well as how we all have things that hold us back from giving our full selves to God and we can't fully live for Jesus until we do.

On Sunday we all split off again to different services. A wide range of sunday morning services were held that morning: for example, Imi and Maddie attended a church that had (in order) worship, a mariachi band performance, a drama piece, a dance and then a sermon.

That afternoon we lunched with Jessie and Judah and then set off on our 2 hour journey to the city of Cartagena. Here we spent one night (6 girls squished cozily into a double bed and a single bed) and one amazing day exploring the gorgeous old town of Cartagena. We all loved strolling, shopping and scranning food for quite a few hours and even met an Iguana! This was a lovely break and we were hosted by a lovely, inspiring couple, Andre and Marcela.

Prayer Points

- Health
- That we will have plenty of people sign up to the camps
- Energy as we enter another busy week

Written by: Ben + Issy
+ Imi