

Get Comfy... It's a Long One

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Burn baby burn...it's Campfire Colombia time!

Monday - After a slow rise, the girls spent time enjoying the beach as the boys made use of the pool to enhance their inner mermaids. Karaoke... is exactly what we should have warned the neighbours before we attempted to host our own sing along night. Highlights included Noah letting out his inner "swiftie", Ben turning into King George through his rendition of Hamilton and finally a conclusion of a time of worship singing.

On Tuesday we kick started the morning with El Pacto (the school ministry where we teach English). Issy has particularly enjoyed this ministry with her having previous experience in a primary school and so she's really been leaving her mark...quite literally when she mistook the whiteboard marker for the permanent marker. We then spent time at the church practicing for worship before we went to Conversation Club where we could speak in English about the morals of money and how we use the Bible's guidance and put it in practice.

Wednesday - it's preperation time! We spent this day preparing for Campfire by organising rooms, groups, activities, dramas... honestly what wasn't organised at this point? The evening was taken up by a 4 hour worship practice.

Notice the big gap? That was your chance to take a deep breath...things are about to get real busy. On Thursday we travelled 6 hours to Monteria and we then went to stay in a farm house but took a wrong turn and had to track our way through thick mud in order to get to our accommodation. We all then were able to nestle in amongst the mice droppings and get some much needed rest...or so we thought. Without the ability to turn off the fans or air conditioning (which included an attempt which sliced Noah's fingers), we froze. On Friday we awoke early and went to visit the local school which had supported us in getting the camp started in Cordoba. We were given a tour of the school before Noah and Ben joined in with their football game and found out the true definition of sweating buckets. After lunch back at the mall and carrying the equivalent of a small Ikea warehouse on our backs,

we arrived at the Finca just in time to welcome the kids. We got them settled in and quickly realised volleyball was off the cards after the ball went over into the neighbours land twice and we had to face an angry Colombian farmer shouting at us that he has « human eating dogs » and not to dare throw the ball over again. We officially kicked off the camp with a huge game of splat (GCSE drama came in clutch) and some more ice breakers which the teens loved! We enjoyed a lovely farm fresh dinner- literally as we could hear the distressed squawks of chickens being strangled to their death for our dinner- taking organic to another level! The passage of the weekend was Luke 15 (parable of the lost sheep and coin) and the first bible session was just getting the teens to understand the passage and words as it was all in English. After all the worship

practice of this week it was finally time to lead worship for the night where we introduced the teens to some of our favourite songs. We feel so blessed by God that within the team we can play the piano, guitar, cajon and sing and that we can share this gift with the campers. It was now time for theme night: Country! Checkered shirts were on and we taught the campers some dances including a barn dance and a traditional Scottish ceilidh, to say there was some stepping on toes is an understatement. Issy and Anoushka

were on night watch and they went to bed fairly pleased with themselves, confident that all the kids were asleep, until they found out the next morning that some of the campers had been up till 4am. Fail!!!! We were up early the next morning with some extremely tired faces all round, but energy was quickly regained as we started our 2nd worship session, it was amazing to see some of the teens begin to connect with the worship and there were some great discussions and questions raised about the parables for example- why would Jesus choose the one sinner over the ninety nine righteous? Although there was quite a struggle with the language barrier and some of the campers being quite shy, it was encouraging to see that within the whole team there were a

few questions and comments being raised. The day continued with a CRASH when Ben broke his bed. The morning was filled with competitions and sports including, football, a marble run and water relay games. A well deserved lunch was dished out and we lead into another worship + bible study where the kids started to open up a bit more. There were more activities after lunch that the kids got to pick for themselves - film making, dance, art, and survival skills. Then came the part the kids (and leaders) had been anticipating: pool time! Best believe as soon as Jessie called out "free time", about 40 bodies jumped into the pool to commence a huge game of volleyball. Afterwards was the campfire! Skits were performed and songs were sung before the kids excitedly roasted their hotdogs and

marshmallows over the fire. Then it was time for worship night; this was something us leaders were a bit nervous about but, it ended up being the most amazing night. The kids were jumping, dancing, praising the Lord, listening attentively to the testimonies and they were open to us praying for them and the Holy Spirit was very strong in that space than night. Then it was bedtime... is what you might expect me to say but no! For at 10:30pm, it was time for Mission Impossible night. The kids really enjoyed the games that involved sneaking past leaders with torches and solving codes. THEN it was time for bed (12:30am) however, not for Liesel and Phoebe who were on night watch and therefore went to bed at 2am! The next morning we had a final reflection bible session where we really saw that the kids had absorbed the lessons and were inspired to share their thoughts and what they

were going to take into life beyond camp. Then we had more sports and more challenges and, of course, a quick dip in the pool. Then came the banquet and the parents came for the ending ceremony where the kids performed the memory verse, we handed out prizes for English, and announced the team who won the overall competition (Red Team! - Noah + Maddie). We headed back home very, very tired but very happy with one of our favourite weekends out here overall.

Prayer Points: • health • final week and planning for the upcoming changes