

Final Week of Ministry

Here we go, final week of ministry with Latin Link :(But never fear, we filled this week to the brim as we always do with laughter, joy, and a pinch of stress. On Monday we set as our day to plan holiday week (not at all leaving it to the last minute 😊) so we sat around our table and let 3 hours of back and forth discussing commence! After a rather stressful morning we decided to return to Cartagena for an island beach-y and chill holiday week which was definitely the right choice. This week we have enjoyed having the time to call the one and only Lily Herring and the amazing Abigail Murphy where spent a lovely couple of hours chatting with them and catching them up on the chaos we have caused over here in Colombia. (Abby is probably quite glad she is no longer our coordinator.)

The next few days we filled with final military visits! we headed back to New Life Store (2nd hand clothes store) to put in a good shift of labelling, sorting, counting, and packing. In the evening, Maddie headed to her final beloved Conversation Club. We had our final Mom Moments :(This week we saw the best turnout by a lot! Anoushka, who joined the mums in their meeting this week, reported to us that it went amazingly: with Sandra (the Pastora) motivating the mums to start their own businesses with the gifts and talents God has given them. She helped them realise the opportunities there were and that they didn't just have to be mums, and we all noticed a difference with the mums when they came out of the meeting all smiles and with a renewed energy. As much as the mums meeting went well, the kids group went a little less successfully. With a lot more kids than we were used to, it was just a tad chaotic with a couple crying children a bit of mess...

everywhere (we're still picking bits of chewed cheerio from our shoes and finding cut up straw segments in every place possible). Overall though, our last Mom Moments went really really well and we felt quite sad saying goodbye to the community of El Cerrito who we have felt really connected to and we have been so inspired with how God is moving so strongly in those lovely people. We said goodbye to Fernando and Sandra who have blessed El Cerrito innumerable and we have learnt a lot from them. Wednesday evening we headed out for a team treat to go to the cinema to watch the new live-action How to Train your Dragon! We all really enjoyed it: some seeing it for the first time and some having grown up with it. We spent Thursday morning at Jessie and Judah's where we were visited by the inspirational Rosa who told us her testimony and how her mission still impacts people today. She told us crazy stories of God working in her life and it was amazing to hear such amazing examples of God's power and love. We followed that up with planning for Friday where we were heading back once more to the El Pacto schools for a full day of teacher training. We planned activities and games for the teachers to do with their students and also planned some reading and writing exercises with the teachers to help them with their own English. After this, (grab your tissues this is real sad) we had our final swim in the apartment pool 😭. Ending on a high with yet more overly competitive volleyball games (including one where it was all the girls versus only Ben and, well, yeah... take a guess who won 😊). After this we knuckled down to cleaning the apartment where we scrubbed the bathrooms till they shone. Friday, we split the day between the 8 of us and headed out to do the teacher training which went amazing! It felt very special to see the excitement and enthusiasm they had to learn and really get stuck in with the games.

Then, Camp Time!

Saturday we moved out of our apartment (quite a stressful morning as we opened the door to about 5 people who came into the already cramped apartment to start refurbishing it). We arrived at camp, got settled and enjoyed the afternoon of playing uno and volleyball with the other campers. We had our first session: the passage was Acts 9 - Saul on the road to Damascus. Then it was retro night where we really enjoyed dressing up, getting stuck in with team activities, and, of course, a retro themed dance battle! (just a heads up, we are not speaking of this when we get back home). The camp continued the following day with sports, a very good speech on the bible passage talking about following the direction God wants you to take, and a delicious lunch! In free time, we indulged in Karaoke (by this I mean we listened and Ben performed a beautiful rendition of Hannah Montana - The Climb) The only slight unfortunate thing was the rain that put the real campfire out the window BUT we got up a youtube video and sat around that instead! (after about 5 mins it buffered and was frozen). Despite the lack of fire we still loved the campfire doing the classic songs, skits, and Ben, Noah and Maddie got to get up to show everyone their amazing improv skills that sent us into fits of laughter. We then had another Worship night but the Colombians led this and we loved them teaching us Colombian songs and how to salsa! We then had mission impossible night where we played a very fun game with 3 groups trying to

smuggle diamonds and the other group were the police. This was very fun and got very competitive. Monday we closed our sessions with a reflection time, played some more sports and then had the delicious big banquet lunch. They announced the winners as purple team (Anoushka and Phoebe) and we said goodbye to all our new friends. That night, we headed back and set up camp in the church for a night. We did fulfill our childhood dreams of playing a big game of sardines in a dark empty church.

Prayer Points:

- Abby and Lily back in Ecuador
- Our holiday week: that we get the rest and recuperation that we need
- Health
- The El Cerrito community: pray it will prosper

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