

...They say that God works in mysterious ways, and I can now attest to that. When we got to the camp we were overwhelmed with the amount of kids that wanted to say hello and talk to us. I don't think that I saw the same kid more than once on that first day. I learned really quickly that they are just as afraid to talk to you as you are to talk to them, and I think that's what truly made the experience great.

Interacting with the kids was my favorite part. They wanted to play soccer with us, talk to us, have us listen to them play instruments, and play baseball with them. I can remember Mikey and I being asked to play baseball with them, they made us be the captains to pick the teams and we had no idea who was any good at baseball. We definitely didn't have a shortage of laughs during that game alone because Mikey hit the ball so hard once that he hit an ox that was passing in the back of the open field that we were playing in.

The most moving thing to me was the worship every night at the Temple. I have never seen so many people gathered praising the name of Jesus Christ. It was such a mountain top experience for me because I could see hundreds of kids with their hands raised to God, singing their hearts out because all they want is him. You could see the fire burning within the hearts of the kids, pastors, and adults that were there to help out. It was the most moving thing in the entire world.

Lastly, I wanted to talk about visiting the sister churches. Never in my life have I seen someone so happy with so little. What we think is no big deal (for example guitar strings), they find to be the greatest gift ever. Handing out the things that I had brought to give to different churches was so heartwarming. It didn't matter how big or how small the gift was, they appreciated it.

I wish that I could aspire to be like these people. They would accept you with open arms even though they didn't even know who you were or where you were from. It was an experience that I would not trade anything for in a million years. It was so humbling and heartwarming to see these people and get to share just over a week with them in a place that they call home.

Mark Sloan