

Welcome back to normal life everybody!

Vacation time is over, time to go back to work, go on to other summer plans or whatever else your summer has for you. However, it is my hope that regardless of what you are doing, a part of you will be constantly thinking about what you did this week. Hopefully in some way you were changed, whether you have new confidence to pray, a stronger desire to seek God on your own or see the world in a whole new light. Whatever it is, I encourage you to right it down. Take these next few days to process what happened on your trip... maybe some things happened in your life that you haven't had much time to think about. Busy life has a way of helping us forget these things... so be sure to write this down. Are there things you want to do differently now? Do you desire to live a different way (i.e. Focus more on Loving your Neighbor)? Whatever this is, write it down and put it in a place where you will see it every day.

Oh, something we didn't get a chance to share with you. On that day that we went and painted a house, a miracle happened. Yes, a real life miracle! Remember we kept waiting for the van to get back with our lunch and we were all hungry??? Well, that van was out with Corta (The lady who lived in the house we painted) at the store. Some of your leaders went with her to get groceries and things for their house. I gave them some money (part of the money you raised for your trip) and some of your leaders gave money. Corta and her husband had been praying so hard for several weeks. They didn't have hardly any money. They needed diapers, paper towels, food, and other basic needs. They also really wanted the house painted, but they weren't holding their breath for that one. Like I said, they had been praying for weeks. Then, on Thursday we came along and painted their house and too Corta shopping. She got to buy more things that she ever imagined. She was praying for a little, and God blessed her socks off as she got so much more than she could ever dream of. You know what the coolest part of this whole miracle thing is? You were that miracle! God used you to answer someone's prayer. Little did you know that as we were preparing for this trip several months ago, raising money and going to meetings, God was preparing us to use us to answer someone's prayer. Because you went, someone's prayer was answered! Just think of that the next time you are praying for a need in your own life. God loves you so much, he may be stirring some stranger from the other side of the world to come and meet your need.... That's the awesome God we serve!

I have to say that I had an absolute blast this week! I always look forward to summer camp every year as it is so much fun just hanging out with the kids. (Although I'm still really looking forward to camp) Now I have another thing to really look forward to every year! You kids were totally awesome. We did some really hard work and you all had such an amazing attitude. Trust me, I've been with a lot of groups who've had some pretty stinky attitudes at time. Although we didn't get to go to the beach yesterday, I didn't hear any complaining. I really wanted you to be able to go, so I too was disappointed that we just didn't have enough time. I was so impressed by your willingness to get out there and do the work of Jesus Christ whether it was picking up a shovel to haul dirt, play soccer with some orphan kids or lay hands on a pastor and pray for his ministry. All of you should be sooooo proud of yourselves! This was our first year for SURGE and you guys blazed the trail. I really don't know many things that I would do differently to make improvements. I'm going to have to try really hard to not compare every year to the 2007 Ensenada team!

Leaders... you guys did great! I certainly couldn't have done it without you. Initially I was a little concerned about having so many adults and afraid that I'd have adults just sitting around, but I'm so glad each and every one of you came. You added to this trip in so many ways. As you've heard me say in several meetings, I've had a dream for years to connect kids to the heart of God by taking kids outside of themselves and having them serve in missions and outreach. Thank you for making this dream for me a reality... I think the real thing was better than I even dreamed it could be. I know that so many of our kids will be forever changed. Many of them will look back for the rest of their life to this trip and its significance. For some kids, this may be just the beginning of many opportunities of serving the Lord through outreach and missions. And don't forget the hundreds of kids who will SURGE in the years to come. It all started with you baby!

Lastly, I hope to organize a little get together in a few weeks, maybe a lunch or dinner on a Sunday in August. I'll send something out in a few days. I also will be sending out some evaluation forms. I want feedback from kids, parents and leaders. I will want your ideas on what we can do to improve and what we need to keep the same. I

also will want some testimonials that I can use as I promote next year for SURGE. Again, I'll get all of this to you in a few days. Get rested up. Don't forget to wear your SURGE shirt on Sunday and one last thing..... CARROTS!

Kenny