

Dear Family and Friends,

First of all, thank you so much for supporting us on our trip to Costa Rica this spring. We were blown away by the incredible response to the financial and prayer support that we got from you. We were more than fully funded, which overflowed into the general financial needs of Casa Viva, and believe me when I say that this is an organization that you can support with confidence because of the incredibly important work that they are doing.

Having gotten a much better ticket price out of Chicago, we drove there and flew to Mexico City (10 hour layover) and then on to San Jose, Costa Rica. Our time in Mexico City was very worthwhile, as we were able to meet up with an old friend, Craig Johring, who is working with Campus Crusade there and is part of something really special with sharing Christ in Mexico City.

Three goals that our team had for the trip were:

- 1) to get to know the culture of Costa Rica, to whom Casa Viva ministers
- 2) to get to know and serve the people involved with Casa Viva, especially the families caring for children
- 3) to get to know the vision of Casa Viva first-hand

To the first goal, we spent time seeing some of the local area. We traveled in vans with some of the Casa Viva families, which also helped accomplish the second goal. Language was a little tricky, but I kept my Spanish-English dictionary handy, and through patience and translation we were able to have meaningful conversations. We spent time at a roadside café, went to a park, visited the world's largest ox-cart (famous in Costa Rica), and did some souvenir shopping. On the last day of our trip we also visited Volcano Poas National Park, a coffee plantation, and the "Cloud Forest," which had several beautiful waterfalls. We also spent one day in one of the poorest neighborhoods, in which families lived in tents on little plots of land. We served food to kids who came each day to receive their only meal.

To the second goal, we had meal get-togethers with different families. We also worked for a couple of the days in the homes of families that were opening their homes to fatherless children. As there has never been a foster care system in Costa Rica (as with the rest of Latin America), this is a fairly new concept. If a fatherless child did not have family to take him in, he would end up in an institution or on the streets. The families we served were joining with Casa Viva and their local church to provide a home for these children. At one home, the government had told the family they could get a child placed if they had a separate bedroom, so we built a wall in an existing bedroom to make it into two rooms. They were very emotional and thankful, and we were amazed that God could use our feeble efforts to accomplish such a huge life-changing possibility. We also helped build some storage shelves for a family that had a baby placed in their home.

To the third goal, besides all of the vision we received on site and en route to different places, we also had team meetings with Matt Schulte, our team leader. In addition, we went to the Casa Viva offices and saw the supply shelves of clothes and toys for kids being placed. Phil Aspegren, the director, and several of the other staff shared testimonies and the vision of Casa Viva.

Thanks again for your support! We were so blessed to have this opportunity.

Scott & Hannah Moore

P.S. For pictures, go to www.flickr.com/photos/middleschoolfreelife/sets and click on "Costa Rica Vision Trip"