



Summer School's in Session



Patti, Jr. Leader, helping with the 4th & 5th grade students

A vision turning into reality. After 3 years working on developing YouthReach in Mexico, we are pleased that we have reached a milestone. After the completion of the YouthReach Teen Center last year we have been working on hiring part time staff and our weekly programs have been ongoing. While it has been a great start for us, we also went through a rough start at the beginning of the year.

Mexico is constantly in the news with the drug cartel problems and it hit home for us when it was discovered that there were some people in town that were involved with the cartels and a drug bust by the military ensued. The military presence has calmed the fears of the town and has made it a much safer place.

Providing hope for a better future

I have known Victor Guzman since he was in 7th grade and have seen him transition into a wonderful young man. He is entering his last year of high school this fall. Victor, like many of the kids in this town, did not have hope for a future due to lack of support. Victor worked hard to earn a scholarship to attend high school in a neighboring town. Many of these kids do not go beyond

The Lord has watched over us and kept us safe from harm. No other incidents have occurred and we are grateful for God protection.

What turned to be a frightening turn of events for this community, ended up being an unexpected blessing for us. The middle school is located up on the hillside and the location of where the drug bust happened. Many of the parents were afraid of sending their kids to school and the schools were shut down for a week. The principal asked me if they could use the Teen Center as a makeshift middle school so that the kids could finish out the school year. The Teen Center is located in the central part of town and this helped to ease the parents fears to allow their kids back in school. We were very happy to be a part of the solution.

We began planning our summer program but it became very clear that we had to provide more than just our weekly programs. Having worked with the middle school for 2 months while they were at the Teen Center we saw that many of the kids were behind educationally. These kids have no access to tutors or specialists throughout the school year,

the 8th grade because parents have to pay for high school and they are unable to afford it. We have been a source of support for Victor these past 4 years by pouring into his life. We have helped him develop his leadership skills, help with financial support, but most importantly build a relationship with him. Victor is now one of our Jr. Leaders and is helping with summer school

many of them fall through the cracks and go through their school year without any support to help them succeed.

We are doing something that has never been done before in this community, a summer school program. Our goal is to support and help to enforce what they have already learned this past year and to continue to help them develop their learning skills.

Summer school takes place weekly on Tuesdays through Friday from 11:00 am-2:00 pm for Pre K up to 6th grade. Parents in the community were so excited about the program that we have 85 students currently enrolled.

What a great opportunity for us in becoming a more effective presence in this community in providing a source of support for these kids. Our programs are off to a great start but we lack funds to support our programs and staff salaries. We would like to be able to hire a full time Director as well. Would you prayerfully consider helping with your financial support and provide hope for a better future for these kids!

Juan Jbarra

program, teaching art class and leading the elementary group. He is planning to attend college in Guadalajara after graduation and wants to be a lawyer. How exciting to see the support we are able to provide to kids like Victor and to watch them flourish!

Victor Guzman leading Art Class.



Juan and students during a session of English class.

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