



Our Short Mission Trip to Ecuador

In the December 2018 News Article, I encouraged you to read an article I had found on the internet written by J Lee Grady, titled "7 Reasons You Should Go on a Short-Term Mission Trip". At the time I read this, the article brought me peace for what we were about to do in Ecuador. I thought I would revisit that article and compare it to what I personally experienced while there. Those of us that went to Ecuador can personally comment on the validity of all 7 of these. We can check the box to each of these.

The first reason given was that "You will encounter God's heart" because when you step into a foreign mission field, you will sense God's amazing compassion for another culture and you will begin to know Him as Lord of the harvest. Not only did we personally experience this but we also saw the bond and love that Danielle and her team have for all the people there. God is ready to grow his church in Ecuador.

The second reason given was that "you will expand your limited perspective" because every now and then you need to step out of your comfort zone and allow God to stretch you. It was no longer me attending a church service but me helping conduct a church service. We all had to adjust to the limited availability of resources such as a building in which to conduct the lessons and arts and crafts. God provided these in a mighty way. They were eager to learn. They each wanted a copy of a bible so they could follow along in the lesson. They came back each and every day and started bringing others with them so they could share the experience and how their souls were being filled with God's word. The number of attendees grew each day. We learned how to adjust and make do with what we had just like the folks in Ecuador do. We had to trust in God to remove all barriers.



The third reason given was that “you will become more grateful.” I definitely received an attitude adjustment while there. No matter how poor the people in Ecuador they were always happy and loving. The orphan children we had dinner with lost both of their parents in a car accident yet they seem happy and doing for and helping each other. What a blessing to see that behavior. I came home to appreciate Rose, you and a hot shower immensely. Now I stay in the shower an extra minute or two just because I can.

The fourth reason given was that “you will discover your spiritual family.” The Holy Spirit bonded us for a common purpose while ministering alongside Matt, Val and Gina and the team from Calvary Baptist. Only known to Danielle and I and now all of you, is the fact that I broke down when I was translating to Danielle how her prayers on behalf of a certain family had been answered. The lady (I cannot remember her name) and her husband were going through hard financial times at one time due to her husband being unemployed. As a result, they had asked a while back for Danielle to keep them in her prayers. That day, she wanted to share with Danielle what had happened since then. She asked me to tell Danielle that God had responded in a mighty way by providing a job for her husband that far exceeded his qualifications so this is how they knew it came from God. She called it a *trabajaso* (a huge job). She also shared with Danielle that she had started a small churro business selling the pastry only at special events and now it had taken off like wild fire to the point it was a thriving concern. Equally important, this lady had been praying for Danielle too. What a blessing it was for me to have been part of this terrific exchange of love, caring and strong faith between these two sisters in Christ. Matt, Gina, Val and I got to sample her warm churros on Friday when she treated all of us to plates full of churros with honey and a green tea drink. She did this as a special thank you to all of us for having come from the US to visit them. Although Danielle was praying all the way from the US, God was answering her prayers for this family in Ecuador.



The fifth reason given is that “you will build lasting partnerships.” I believe that Matt, Val and Gina can attest to the strong bond God created for all of us that were there. We linked arms and work for a common purpose across cultural lines. I strongly believe that we are ready to go back to foster what God developed in such a short time. We can expect God to link our church with what happens in Ecuador including the planting of a church there.

The sixth reason given is that “you will overcome your fears.” Matt was on it! Teaching a lesson to the kids, doing a devotional and praying. Gina, Val, Matt and I did what we had to do with confidence for the precious people we came to reach.



The last and seventh reason given is that “you will expand the kingdom of Jesus.” Although we were cold, sometime sick, tired and not in the comfort of our home, we were and remained obedient to the great commission, Matthew 28:18-20. We also remembered Romans 10:14 How, then, can they call on the one they have not believed in? And how can they believe in the one of whom they have not heard? And how can they hear without someone preaching to them? We don’t know yet what the seeds we planted will yield but we know that God is there watering them.

I want to thank Matt, Gina and Val for having volunteered to be part of this. They contributed patiently and immensely while there and stepped out in faith that God would lead the way. I also want to thank Calvary Baptist, Danielle, Bambi, Cindy, Jessica and Charity for inviting us to be part of their mission efforts in Ecuador. Thanks to each of you at Shady Shores for keeping us in your prayers and wishing us a spirit filled week, traveling mercies and the financial support to do this.

Please continue to pray for God to leads us in our mission efforts at Shady Shores Baptist. We have a lot of work ahead us of. Let me know if you would like to volunteer to be part of the Missions team.

God Bless You,

Carlos