

“SO HOW WAS MEXICO?”

HERE’S HOW GOD ANSWERED YOUR PRAYERS...

#5 A new church plant hosted its first Vacation Bible School (VBS) program themed “¡A Jugar!” which means “Let’s Play!” Zihuatanejo Christian Fellowship’s (ZCF) Spanish-speaking community now has a church home located up in the hills. Thirty kids aged 4-14 from surrounding communities arrived at the church Monday morning. They received a breakfast snack, and then jumped right into an energetic time of worship. A Bible lesson, creative craft (made from recycled materials), and fun games rounded out the morning. Each day concluded with a homemade lunch. As the week progressed, word spread to friends about how much fun they were having. By Wednesday, the number of kids at VBS had doubled! Activities each day centered around a Bible lesson: Jesus takes care of me, He gives me strength, He helps me to believe, He gives me a place on His team and He frees me from the bondage of sin. Three new families returned to church with their kids on Sunday! One of the fathers, Jose, said his daughter Allison was happy that week, and she wanted to keep coming back to VBS. Life is hard, even for little ones. But God gives hope for people of all ages!



3-5 year olds



6-9 year olds



10-14 year olds



#4 Emma’s heart expanded for people in this community. Her friendships are authentic and mutual trust grows deeper. During our departure at the local airport, an airline attendant asked why she was so upset. I told her Emma will miss her friends. “Your daughter has friends, here?” she asked. Emma is committed to investing in people, particularly here. She co-lead worship at the English-speaking church and served on the worship team during the Spanish-speaking VBS. Stretched beyond her comfort zone, God graciously provided the help, support and friendship she needed to push through and thrive! She has been invited to serve as ZCF’s English-speaking worship leader January through March, during the tourist high season. And with the sovereign hand of the BIG GOD we serve, this actually might come together.

#3 The Hernandez family was an incredible blessing to both our family and the church family. They were a perfect fit for the VBS and a joy to spend time with. They connected with many of the kids throughout the week, soaking up the culture and new relationships at every turn. Having grown up in Mexico, Luis relished the local food and the opportunity to be our chauffeur for the week. He and Jenn had such a cool craft idea. Luis took a professional quality photo of each kid at VBS, while Jenn worked with them to create a personalized picture frame. Kids added stickers and the precious words “Jesus loves me.” It was an incredible reminder of how unique each person is made and how special we are to Him.



#2 The pastoral team in Zihuatanejo is alive and well! We are amazed at how God has answered your prayers for unity, fellowship and love for one another. Over the past 5 years, these attributes of Christ grow deeper as we continue to partner together. We concluded the week with a final meal together, sharing openly our heartfelt joys and the practical needs that lay ahead. Please pray for senior pastor John Sullivan and his wife Beti, pastor Cristian Cruz and his wife Elsa, pastor Juan Cruz and his wife Anayeli, and intern Manuel Luviano. The heart of this team is to serve families and help them grow deeper in their Christian faith. If you feel lead to continue supporting this ministry throughout the year, please consider a one-time or monthly contribution at www.zihuachristian.org



The VBS Leadership Team

#1 Un gran Dios (a big God) who continues to fund this ministry in an impoverished Mexican community. Your generosity provided a snack and lunch each day at VBS. It covered transportation costs for both kids and youth leaders. You equipped us with game supplies, which were left behind for ongoing youth activities. Remaining resources will be used to secure the church entrance with a locked gate, add a permanent children’s classroom, and purchase ongoing discipleship materials.

Click [here](#) to watch a short video of VBS highlights (a big thanks to Luis) and [here](#) to view more photos.

We’re so grateful for each of you and how you’ve shared in this journey with us! Rhett, Jeanne, Emma, Drew and Ian Osko