

SUE'S NOTES FROM COLOMBIA 2017

Friday, September 1, 2017: This was a day of travel and reflection for our group.

We were taken to the airport in Barranquilla where we shared more hugs and kisses, and a few tears as we departed. It is such a joy and honor that the Oxford Presbyterian Church is able to help our sister church be engaged in helping those that are displaced. Yes, the structure of the family and the value of family life may appear to be lost for many displaced people in Colombia. However we also see great hope for these people through the Bethesda Center. We saw women with no husbands and children with no fathers who were finding hope because our sister church is reaching out to them. We cannot stay within the four walls of our own church in Oxford and ignore such needs. We must find a way to continue to have a positive impact on the lives of these displaced people. By supporting the Bethesda Center and strengthening our ties with our sister church we can help our sister church teach these children and parents values, ethics, and morals, and a pathway to a better future.

On our return home on Friday we changed planes in Miami. There were thunderstorms all around so we sat on the runway for a long time before departure for Cincinnati. Our pilot turned off the engines while we waited so that we would not have to return to the terminal for more fuel before departing. It was late when we arrived in Cincinnati and we were the only passengers in the airport.

It was well after midnight when we returned to our homes in Oxford. Our hearts and minds were full from all that we had experienced during that trip! We were happy to be back home, safe and sound. We saw first hand how members of a small church can have a huge impact on the lives of others. Alleluia! Amen!



2017 Mission Team in front of new Bethesda Center.