

THE TRIP THAT WOULD CHANGE MY LIFE

I am grateful for the opportunity to be able to share God's love and how God is working on the border. I give thanks for the lives of Mark and Joca who gave us the opportunity and prepared us for the trip that would change my life. I believe I was able to experience God's faithfulness on another level. I didn't really feel worthy of this opportunity, but still God took it upon Himself to make me see that I had a divine purpose.

I can't say that this adventure was easy, because it really wasn't. I think it was one of the biggest challenges of my life. Getting out of my comfort zone was never something I would choose, but I'm sure God led me out of it last week.

It is a true honor and my heart is full of joy to have been able to represent something as important and valuable in my life as Frontera de Cristo. How much God loves me that I was able to share for a whole week what changed my life forever. I am very happy to have been able to share what it is like to serve with the important ministries of FDC, but I feel that it was not only sharing information but sharing the experience of serving God, serving the community.

One of the things that blessed my heart the most is having shared a bit of life with so many people from different cultures, knowing that we all serve the same God. It was amazing to have been able to learn basic words in other languages, to share with missionaries who have served God by traveling to more than 10 countries and with more than 6 different languages; and the best of all is to have received the love of people who did not even know you but who already called us *family*. I could definitely see God's love in a supernatural way. God is good.

I can say that what I enjoyed most was *worship time* and preaching. It was special because God prepared our hearts and minds every morning to start the day, and every afternoon to go to rest. I literally felt that every preaching was directed to me. It was as if the preachers knew the struggles I was going through at the time. On several occasions, God broke my heart because every preaching I heard was a prayer answered. I can definitely say that I received much more on this trip than I was able to give.

I think this experience made me realize that my decision, last year, to stay in Agua Prieta to study was the best decision I could have made. For years, I was tormented to see how all the young people of my age were studying the career of their dreams and living the life that every young person is tempted to live but... now I can see that God had something different prepared for me. Now I know that God wanted me to study social sciences so that I could be more sensitive and aware of the problems that plagued my community. I am 100% sure that everything was a master plan of God to teach me how reality is and how He can use me not only as an intercessor but as a person sufficiently prepared to be a blessing. In terms of my position in the coffee shop, selling the coffee made me realize the importance of making it known in my community, and that it is not only coffee, but it is something that represents the continuous struggle for justice and well-being. Having to sell coffee in English made me realize how easy it is to do it in Spanish ha, ha, ha, because I don't know where I got so much information, but I was able to convince many people who didn't even drink coffee that they will buy my coffee. Many may say it was luck, my sales skills, or the compassion of my American brothers and sisters, but I am convinced that it was God's grace.

On this occasion, I truly felt the phrase of *serving in an unknown land* because it carries so much responsibility and much, much faith. I thank God for allowing me to share this adventure with Tali and Daf. I have too much joy in my heart to have seen them open up and grow, both in the conference and as God worked through their lives. They gave a different meaning to this journey and I felt much more secure, loved, and supported. On more than one occasion, they took care of me, listened to me, prayed for me, and supported me; and one of their priorities was that I was always well. I am sure and confident that this is a great beginning for them and that God has plans that even they cannot imagine. But I can truly say that they are ready for whatever God brings into their lives.

Finally, this trip was an answer to prayer. Jeremiah 33:3 says, *Cry out to me and I will answer you and show you new things that you never imagined you could see.* My cry was always that above all things I could show His love, mercy, and faithfulness; that I could be a useful vessel and with the passage of time I could be formed by His hands until I became a vessel to be used by Him. Before this trip, I did not feel complete because of so many insecurities that overwhelmed me; but now I am convinced of who I am and the value I have. My prayer is that every day I can be more like Jesus is and be a miracle that conveys what God is capable of doing.

I am eternally grateful. My words are not enough to express my feelings, but what I can say is that God is good all the time. I know it's just the beginning of one of the best stories God has ever written.

God bless you greatly. My love and respect is with all of you.

Blessings, Yirel Pacheco

**throughout the trip I took care of taking photos and videos so I will be preparing a video of our experience. Wait for it...*

**my experience was like being inside the Musical High School movie because even the buildings were identical. In the evenings, the young people met to dance and in the dining room there was no shortage of people who started singing.*

more than half the week was rainy and the weather was very cool, and none of us were wearing winter clothes. The time difference was 3 hours and the first few days our bodies were very uncontrolled by the few hours of sleep and we were always hungry (or I think you can imagine that the one who was always hungry was me) but still God was faithful and kind. Many people offered us coffee that they had in their bedroom and gave us bars, spicy chips, and **Jaritos sodas in order to make us feel more at home. Even in such simple things God took care of us.*

**I also want to share with you that I have applied for the Summer Service Team 2023 and during my stay at the conference I was interviewed. I only ask that your prayers be with me and that God's will be fulfilled in my life in the name of Jesus. Amen.*