

San Jose, Costa Rica July 7-14, 2007, Trip #288

by Patti Pease

I was out numbered! I knew there would be contention and strife. A battle of the wills was inevitable, but who would it be? Who would start the revolt? Who would defect? When would it commence? These were the main concerns I faced on our mission trip to Costa Rica this summer. I'm not talking about the people of Costa Rica. I am talking about the 28 pre-teens and teenagers that went on ***Mount Pisgah's first family mission trip!*** The adults were out numbered by the eighteen-and-under crowd, 28 to 21. Surely, a mutiny was inevitable with those numbers. Well, the naysayers were wrong! Predictions of turmoil and revolt never materialized! There was peace and harmony all around us, even with the siblings! The only explanation for this unexpected harmony was the prayers blanketing our team. Besides prayers for peace among the youth, our prayers for safety and long-lasting energy and endurance were heard loud and clear! Imagine the logistics of loading 48 people AND all the provisions to teach two sessions of Vacation Bible School (VBS) at two locations onto two buses, not once, but twice a day! It was awesome! Not a problem! God's mighty intervention is the ONLY answer!

Our purpose on Trip #288 was to provide VBS to as many children as possible. We taught at ***two*** different churches each day! ***In the mornings***, we went to a UMC in the poor community of Platanares. Each day our numbers of children experiencing Jesus' love through our children grew and grew. We began the week with 50 children. By the end of the week we had over 200 children singing and praising God with us! ***In the afternoons***, we loaded everything and everyone back on the two buses and went to the UMC seminary in the community of San Pedro, a middle-class suburb of San Jose. God blessed us again with growing numbers each day. At the end of the week, our mission team taught over 80 children from San Pedro about the love of Jesus!

In addition to VBS, several members of our team shared their talents for doing minor construction work at both locations. A ceiling was laid, the only bathroom in a church was repaired, a soccer field mowed, and rooms primed and painted. Our awesome team left their mark on these communities in so many different ways!

On Trip #288 I believe God opened the clouds to let us get a peek, a tiny glimpse of what Heaven will be like, singing and praising Him together! Our goal—besides sharing Jesus' love with our new friends in Costa Rica—was to take the mystery out of missions. I think we succeeded! Each family on our team experienced a wonderful and meaningful fellowship with their family, with the entire team, AND with hundreds of people in Costa Rica.

Next year, won't you join us? Dates for the next family mission trip to Costa Rica are July 5–12, 2008. Mark your calendars, and come experience the peace and harmony for yourself!