

My wife and I had talked about taking a trip like this for nearly 20 years. But there always seemed to be a reason not to go—work, school, family obligations, kids' activities, and the many other demands of life. We are so grateful that we finally made the time.

Our SALT trip to Central America was an incredible blessing. We had the opportunity to share the love of Jesus with the local people in so many ways. We served lunch and played with children in a program that provides food, care, and Christian encouragement to kids who have experienced tremendous brokenness in their young lives. We delivered food and prayed with families in their homes as they faced serious illness. We sang, prayed, and served lunch to elderly residents in a nursing home. We provided a time of rest and refuge for pastors who rarely have the opportunity to step away from the demands of their ministries. And we traveled to a remote church to celebrate a Quinceañera and pray over two young women as they committed to keeping Christ at the center of their lives.

But just as meaningful was the way we experienced the love of Jesus through the people we encountered.

We experienced it in our morning team devotionals, worshiping together on the bus, and in the warm hugs and bright smiles of children. We received wisdom and prayers from Nicaraguan pastors who faithfully serve their communities. Each evening, we gathered to pray and share how we had seen God at work that day. And throughout the trip, we experienced the incredible hospitality, humility, and genuine love of people who dedicate their lives to serving others in the name of Jesus.

God used this experience to draw me into a deeper desire to serve Him and others. I am spending more time in the Bible, my prayer life has been renewed, and I am actively looking for opportunities to share the love of Jesus through ministries in my own community.

And one thing I know for certain: I will be returning again soon.

Dave