

Connect has changed lives and continues to change lives of those served in Central America but has also changed my life. Growing up in a couple different religious beliefs, I believed in God, Jesus and the Holy Spirit, I was taught how to pray specific prayers, what different rituals meant and was reminded of what Christ's death and resurrection meant. Yet, I lacked the actual understanding of God's word through Jesus' teachings in scripture.

When God called me to go on a SALT, I had hope that I would be learning to appreciate the "stuff" in my life more because "others had less." Even though I knew it was selfish thinking, I felt as if I had worked so hard in my life yet had so little to show, so I was looking for a hard reality check. I understood we were going to spread the love of God to them, but I certainly didn't expect to have my own eyes opened to how much I lacked not in things, but most importantly, in my spiritual growth, in the knowledge of His word and how much the lessons of Jesus' teachings of perseverance and trust in God I needed. I had the privilege of witnessing patience and love despite different obstacles placed in our brothers and sisters' lives. I have seen so many families that have so much less than we do yet smile more, love more, appreciate more and ultimately, "let go" and "let God." Everything I have yet to truly be and do.

Connect and God's children in Central America have taught me to continue to persevere, trusting in the Lord with prayer and the study of His Word. In these short days from returning, my journey of devotion to routine prayer, scripture study and to "let God" has already helped me focus on His miracles. I cannot wait to return to next year!