

Day 4

Today was a special day for our team, because we had the privilege and honor of worshipping with our brothers and sisters in Oaxaca at Amore y Proclamación church (IPAP). Our morning started with breakfast at the hotel, along with our team focusing on God's Word during our team devotional. We then drove over to the IPAP church to begin worship. The worship services were a profound and moving experience for our whole mission team. The services started with a couple of worship songs, including old hymns. One of the songs that the worship team led was the song, "Holy Forever", by Chris Tomlin. The worship team started the song in Spanish, then midway began singing the song in English. The sound of all of the people in the church singing in unison in various languages reminded me of what Heaven will be like when all nations and all peoples are worshipping the Son of God.. Our team members commented that this song brought tears to our eyes, as the bride of Christ each sang in their native language. Another team member shared that it was a beautiful picture of how the Church is unified in Christ as we worship Him, even across differences in culture, language, and distance. Immediately afterwards, our very own Lindsay Selli, sang beautifully the hymn, "Sé Tú Mi Visión" (Be Thou My Vision). Everyone in the audience was in awe of the glory of God as she sang this prayerful hymn.

After worship, Pastor Josias Luna preached a powerful sermon from the book of Romans 1:23-27. Our very own Jonathan King (J.K.), then led a Sunday School message on the same passage of scripture, by providing a deeper dive into the text. Eddie Chapa helped translate parts of his lesson as well, helping create an emotional connection between the members of IPAP and J.K.'s message. Both Pastor Josias' preaching and J.K.'s teaching were a deep, thought-provoking, and encouraging message for our mission team members and the members of IPAP to receive. While this was all happening, three members of our mission team (Rich Delano, Francelia McReynolds, Kay Cowles) went to visit another church. The people of this church welcomed our mission team members as they worshipped Christ together. Our mission team in attendance later proceeded to provide Ligonier Ministries Reformed Study Bibles signed by members of our team, on behalf of FPC, as well as some new faith-based children's books for their completion of their AMO program lesson.

Our team stayed for the second service at the IPAP church, as Lindsay sang beautifully again, and all of our team members presented Pastor Josias Luna, his Elders, Deacons, and Worship leader with brand new Spanish Reformed Study Bibles. Each member of our team signed the Bibles on behalf of FPC. In addition, Kay Cowles presented a special gift on behalf of FPC, along with Sichan Siv presenting a signed copy of his autobiography "Golden Bones" to the IPAP church.

After church we were able to spend some time in the Colonial Square of Oaxaca, seeing the beautiful landscapes, and enjoying a great dinner with Pastor Josias, some of his staff, and members and families of IPAP church. We ended the evening by going back to the IPAP church to lead a "Family Fair" event, in which members from our mission team shared their testimonies, while also helping lead various stations on topics such as education, prayer, history of the

church, Bible Trivia, mental health, women's health, as well as other topics. The members of the IPAP church spent twenty minutes at each station, and rotated between each, which was well attended and greatly appreciated by the IPAP church by their members. Our team later reflected on the event and was emotionally touched by the positive receptiveness of the members, and their willingness to share areas of their lives as it pertained to the topics we were sharing. What a wonderful opportunity to grow in fellowship with the members of IPAP in the mutual celebration and encouragement of God's faithfulness in all of our lives. One aspect of the night that was particularly special for me, was when Lindsay Selli had just finished her testimony. The members of the church at our particular station asked her to sing a solo of the song "Amazing Grace". She sang the song perfectly, in a small Sunday School classroom, packed with about 40 people in the room. The room erupted with applause and the phrase being repeated "otro mas", "otro mas", I could feel the love of God in this room and it was a night that I will remember for a long time. After the stations, and the Family Fair event, we said our goodbyes, gave hugs to the various members of the 100 plus member congregation, and went back to the hotel to end the day.

Thank you Jesus for such a wonderful day of worship!

