



Children Of God

Reflections on our  
medical trip to Chichi  
August, 2007

Before I returned to college my father gave me a letter he had written and instructed me to open it later. In it he included a quote from Elton Trueblood. The quote reads: ***“No vital Christianity is possible unless at least three aspects of it are developed. These are the inner life of devotion, the outer life of service, and the intellectual life of rationality.”*** Reading over it again I thought of a trip to Guatemala I had the privilege of being a part of over the summer of 2007. I read the quote again focusing on the words ***“the outer life of service.”*** However important all three elements given by Trueblood are, I accept the necessity of an outer life of service more than ever reflecting on the week spent in Guatemala.

To serve others was to serve myself. In Chichicastenango working with the girls was an utter joy for my brother and me. We shared experiences that will remain with us for the rest of our lives and strengthened our relationship as brothers as well. Any change or affect I had on the girls in Chichi is a positive change in me that has extended outward to other facets of my life. The gratification I have gained from this trip is unparalleled in my life. In doing good for others we are doing good for ourselves. In doing good for ourselves we spread that goodwill to all who we come in contact with. This brings one question to mind, borrowing again from my father, “Why do we continue to resist good?”

Not being able to speak the native language in a foreign country can be a challenge. Throughout the week we had many humorous encounters with natives of all ages. They tried to speak English while we attempted Spanish. I realize now the most important things shared between our group and the children in Chichi were not communicated with words. I remember the only time I was not completely happy was because I was scared the girls were going to make me dance in front of everyone.

In my daily life especially as a student a routine takes over my life. It is a routine of classes, time in between to eat, outside study, physical activity, social life and many other things. The time I spend thinking about my own spiritual journey is often overtaken by these parts of my life. In Guatemala being with the people, Allan and Kathleen Rubio, our diverse and very interesting group and the girls at the amazing Children of God School in Chichi, I was reminded why I believe.

During our time in Guatemala we actively participated in God’s will. This feeling along with accepting I was there for this reason combine in me to form a new appreciation that I was able to participate in something so great.

- Brian Sewell