

FaithBIT



Rooftop Encounter

Reflection by Alex Paster

(Alex, a high school senior, first shared this in February during a youth-led worship)

I believe trust is a significant part of our faith. If we didn't have trust, how would we believe in these quite amazing stories that we hear of in the Bible. But I also believe trust is also the thing that keeps you faithful.

For example, when I went to Mexico through the church, I didn't think I wanted to go. I had always wanted to go to Mexico because my mom is a Spanish teacher and I had always loved the culture and the language. I thought going there for a mission trip would ruin my way of thinking about Mexico and poverty in general. I never wanted to think of such a beautiful country by defining it by what I had seen in those poor cities.

After a while of thinking about the trip, I had said that I didn't want to go. But, my mom had already put us down to go, so I didn't have a choice. And she asked me to trust her in her decision.

Fast forward to the trip. One day, probably the third day, we went to a community named Tultitlan...and that city is garbage. It literally was built on a landfill. The people's houses that were there were either remnants of houses or they were just built out of the trash that was there. So, when we were there, we were working in the building owned by the community that was probably the only free-standing building that they had there. And we were working to try and to take off their roof and make a new one. But the building had a tar roof on it, and you would think it wouldn't be so difficult but all the materials they had were kitchen knives. So, we had to get a tar roof off with some kitchen knives in the Mexican sun and that took a long while to do. But working with us was a kid named Martín. He lived about a half a mile away from where the building was so when we got the opportunity to go and eat lunch with these families, my dad and I chose to go eat with Martín. So, we're walking through and seeing all these houses built out of trash and we come to Martín's house, or lack thereof. It was a shack with half a roof that had some animals in it and a table and some chairs. So, there we ate our lunch. We ate a dish called posole. I don't know if you guys have had that, but that is to this day one of my favorite dishes that I have ever tried.

So, fast forward to today. I believe God sent me and my dad to go see Martín, because that day I figured out that this is what the culture is really about. Culture isn't all about what the country has to offer, it's more about what the country's people have to offer.

I don't think I'll ever forget Martín and his family, because the experience has really shaped who I am in ways I cannot explain. An experience like that is meant to change the way you look at God and all of God's people, and it certainly did for me.

So, I want to challenge you and step out of your comfort zone because you might experience something life changing. Immanuel has all these amazing opportunities, and all you need to do is trust in God.