

The Patricks

In Mexico



Our second update from south of the border.

Vida en Penasco

Things are chugging right along down here. We got to participate in, "water day," where Brittany offered hair cuts to the little boys in the neighborhood. It sounds weird when I think of it, but they really liked it, all 25 of them. We also had the privilege of meeting our first snake. Some people say snakes get a bad wrap being associated with the devil and all, but after meeting one I disagree; they get the wrap they deserve.

We had the opportunity to host another group and build for two more families. The group was a blast to hang out with for the weekend and, as always, we hope they come back again soon. It's crazy to see the RV park go from being packed one minute to empty and quiet the next.

This month we got a truck donated to One Mission which has been a huge blessing.

Thanks Mike and Sun State Landscaping for making it possible for us to be able to operate down here a little easier.

On December 13th we helped host a huge Christmas outreach event in the barrios of Penasco. We handed out 3k presents, hosted 4k people, and cooked over 5k hotdogs. It was a success (more details on next page)!

A New Focus

The saying goes, "give a man a fish and he eats for a day, teach a man to fish and he eats for a lifetime." I'm not sure who said it but it couldn't be more true. After a few months of being here we are changing our focus from building, giving, and hoping to teaching, showing, and hoping. We no longer want to give houses away but want to help teach people here about working, earning, and providing.

Someone asked me, "so what is keeping these people from building the houses themselves?" It was a good question that I didn't have a very good answer to. Because of all that we no longer build houses, we build communities. People don't need a house, they need a reason or a purpose; or a community. How are we building communities? That answer doesn't fit in a newsletter, check out my [blog](#) or [email](#) me if you are interested in learning a little bit more about it.

DID YOU KNOW?

Unemployment in Rocky Point is up to %60



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Thanks so much for supporting us. Know that your contribution (whether it be money, prayer, friendship, or encouragement) is greatly appreciated and making Rocky Point a better city. We are so honored to be doing God's work in such a place and hope you will find encouragement in our vision here. Please keep us updated on happenings in your world.

Here are some details about what we could really use some prayer for.

1. Understanding the culture

Honestly, so far its been pretty hard to figure out this culture. It seems like theres always something missing.

2. Understanding who to trust

There are a lot of people down here, we need all the help we can get in finding the trustworthy ones.

3. Understanding our vision

Hopefully sometime soon we are going to sit down with the Mayor and ask for land to be donated for our [community](#).

4. Understanding Spanish

We've been here for well over 3 months and we're both picking it up little by little, but it gets very frustrating not knowing the language sometimes.

5. Understanding our new focus

We just want to spread the idea of self-sufficiency. There are too many people sitting around waiting for a handout. Its damaging to their culture, their lifestyles, and their perceptions of themselves.



Christmas Outreach

On December 13 we participated in a Christmas outreach event which included 4 other organizations and some of the resorts in town. We had bounce houses, Christmas presents, blankets, food bags, shoes, and hot dogs to hand out to all 4000+ people there.

We were responsible for supplying and cooking five-thousand hotdogs and all that goes with that. It was a huge success and we are already planning on how to make next year even better. Thanks to everyone who came out and helped cook it would have been impossible to accomplish all that we did without your help!

We had tons of volunteers from Phoenix, Gold Canyon, and some friends of ours that live down here. They all worked really hard to cook the hot dogs or to give out the two-thousand pairs of shoes

It was a really inspiring scene being in the midst of such a mass of people receiving help and being so grateful. I met one family that said they haven't eaten in 3 days and aren't sure where they are going to get food after this. It can be so heartbreaking to see and interact with those people and their lives but it reminds me everyday of why Brittany and I are here and all the work that is to be done. There is no final destination we can arrive to and say, "alright we've done our part, its over for us." This is a journey that once embarked upon can never be completed. While this doesn't mean we will spend the rest of our lives in Mexico it does mean that we will spend the rest of our lives helping people and doing what we believe the world needs for it to be the kind of place we want our kids to grow up in.

Links

[Dustin](#) - [pictures](#) // [blog](#)

[Brittany](#) - [pictures](#) // [blog](#)

[One Mission](#)

[Rocky Point Times](#)



We Found a Snake

Imagine with me, if you will, standing by a dusty shed separating and counting shovels and a clearly distraught girl comes walking towards you. My instant reaction caused me to say, "Brittany what is wrong?" She replied, as calmly as she could after having just seen what she had seen, "there's a snake over there, I found a snake."

Convenient that I had tons of shovels had my disposal so I picked one up and begun my trek to the beast. After having located it (I would have never seen that thing) I began to poke it with the shovel. It took quite some time before the snake finally stuck at the shovel, this is now pertinent information for my current situation.

I then proceeded to insert the shovel in between the body and the head of the snake, thus making them two separate pieces of a previously alive snake. From there Brittany braved the picture on the right, I did not, and we hung it on our fence as a warning to all other snakes who dare venture onto our property, much less so near our house.

