

## Day 5

**Jake Layton:** So we have been here a week and seen and done a lot. These people have next to nothing and all of the kids' clothes are donated. The people here are so happy though. They love life and love each other as much as anything. I think we would all benefit if in America we acted like these kids.

**Anna Newton:** This week has been really, really, really cool. I'm super glad that I got to come. It's neither as hot nor as humid as I expected, and the hotels and meals are much nicer than I anticipated. (Whether that's my fault for assuming the worst or the fault of those who reported lesser conditions is something I can't say.) While there are tons of children who are malnourished and in serious need, it's easy to see the impact that Partners in Development is having on the community – the kids at the VBS this past week all looked healthier than I expected and were very, very strong. (Seriously – try having nine of them gang up on you with pool noodles.) It's been challenging guiding them through crafts, especially since some of them didn't even know what coloring was. That was definitely a huge wakeup call. Like, how blessed am I to live in a country where my parents had enough time and money to ensure I had the luxury of learning how to use crayons and scissors before I turned three? (The answer: incredibly.) We've also had a lot of growth as a band of believers, from deep talks way past bedtime to games in the pool (where we do NOT drink the water) to generous souls killing cockroaches for far less brave people (cough, thanks, Christian). Today, in addition to getting pulled over by the police (a routine license and registration checkpoint, but much more intense because most of us had no idea what the cops were saying), we had the incredible fortune to go to hot springs up in the mountains. It's important to remember that, even while serving God on earth, Jesus took time to recharge. It's okay – and necessary – for us to do the same. All in all, *via es buena*. (Life is good, according to my vastly insufficient knowledge of Spanish.) God is very fortunate in blessing us by letting us come and keeping us safe, while also letting us engage with each other, ourselves, and Him on a deeper level. Here's hoping that continues.

**Karen Smith-chaperone:** This is my fourth trip to Guatemala, but my first trip with many of these young adults. It has been great getting to know them. They are working hard and staying hydrated whether they want to or not. Water breaks are not optional in this heat and humidity! PID is doing a wonderful work here in this area and our team is making a difference in the lives they are serving as well as their own. Please continue to pray for good health and safety as we continue to serve.

