

Navajo Mission Trip Update

Thoreau, New Mexico, a small town in western New Mexico with a population of about 1,500 people. A town surrounded by the beauty of a blue New Mexico sky, the gorgeous red rocks of the mesas, and the purple wild flowers swaying in the wind. The dark clouds in the east are showing a promise of coming rain. It is hard to imagine that in winter Thoreau has the harshness of 37 degrees below 0, or that one fourth of the residents have income below the poverty level, and that one-third of the housing units lack complete plumbing and kitchen facilities. Fifty percent of the households use wood alone to warm their house during winter. Gangs, drug activities, and domestic violence issues run rampant in this community. Behind these statistics is one more—the fact that this community had 6 teenage suicides this past year. That would unravel any community. The leaders of several churches in the area got together to discuss the problems.

Trinity Hills {along with several other churches} were asked to come to Thoreau at different times during the summer to lead Vacation Bible School, to come and to work with the kids, teach them, love them, and share God's word with them. It was unbelievable how quickly these kids would raise their hands to answer questions after intently watching and listening to stories of the Bible. And they knew the answers! Or to see how the young people from our church related to the children of Thoreau. Throwing water balloons at each other can make instant friends as well as knowing who the expert is at "Rock, Paper, Scissors." But we must also thank Dr. Sanders and Eloy Gonzalez for their time in the pulpit at night in the sanctuary of Day Spring Missionary Baptist Mission. We were able to listen to two of the best preachers around.

The blessings we received from the New Mexico Navajo Mission Trip were the smiles on the children's faces during the Bible stories, the games, crafts, music, noon meals, and gifts of clothes and food for the families. We experienced joy in the realization of our roll in Kingdom work—we may not have reaped a great harvest, but we helped to plant and water the "Word of God." Preparing and organizing for all of this was easy—teaching them, working with them, and loving them—that, too, was easy. The hardest part was leaving these children after you have fallen in love with them. However, the Lord is continuing to bless us and teach us through this experience of serving Him. We were able to share and experience a great joy and many blessings. We can't wait to go back and take others with us.