

## An update from Kendra Hixenbaugh The World Race/Adventures in Mission October 23, 2016

Life in Costa Rica has been crazy amazing. We live on a farm in the middle of the rain forest and honestly it reminds me so much of home. It rains quite a bit, but I love the stars and the animals. You can literally see monkeys swinging in the tree while you wash the dishes!



Our schedule at the farm: Monday-Wednesday we wake at 6:30am for breakfast and have a time of prayer and being in the word, then from there every morning is different, but we usually don't start work till 8. We have been doing a lot of manual labor on the farm, from digging holes, to making a new fence, to scrubbing stairs for them to be repaired and sanded. Then we have lunch at noon and from noon to 2 we have "siesta" time which is literally just napping or having alone time. Then we go back to work at 2 and sometimes our

jobs switch but most of the time we go back to what we were doing in the mornings. Then at 5 every day we have coffee time where you sit and talk together and drink coffee. Then we shower and get ready for dinner. Dinners are interesting because they mostly consist of rice and beans which is something I was expecting, but it's interesting how Rosita, our host mother, will try and add "American" foods to the mix, like pancakes or she tried to make spaghetti which was such a blessing of her trying to make us feel at home.

Thursdays are a day of rest in which we are supposed to just chill, and Fridays are our adventure day. We usually take Thursday and Friday to go on an adventure. Recently, our host family has friends in Jaco which is a beach that is 4 hours away, so they took us there and we got to play at the beach. I even had a chance to try surfing which was so amazing and I got to see baby turtles.

On Saturdays we work all day at kids clubs playing games with them teaching them bible stories and just connecting with them. It has always been said to me that children love looking at their own picture but I guess I never knew how much they would love it. We usually have lunch with them and then in the afternoon we go play at a soccer club. The first week we did a lot of manual labor helping to fix the field and then this week and last we actually played with the kids and got to talk to them a lot. Sundays, we have church which is awesome cause it's all in Spanish, which I am not perfect at but then we go outside with the kids while the adults listen to the message.

**A Story:** The first Sunday we had here I had raised my hands in praise. I knew the song we were singing even though I couldn't understand the Spanish. As I sat there feeling pretty worn from not connecting super well with my team I prayed to the Lord. When I opened my eyes and looked over, this sweet little was staring at me with the largest smile. From that moment, she held my hand and asked if I would be her friend. Every Sunday since she has run to me and played with me. She has the biggest smile and every time I think about her willingness to be so loving to those around her, I think about the love the Lord has for me and how he wants so badly for me to feel loved and wanted. She loves playing with my camera, and despite the language barrier and my not understanding half of what she says, she has so much patience with me and continues to pursue being my friend. Every week, she wants to show me things and wants to play hand games.



I know the Lord is teaching me to rely on Him, along with just being content. I know that everything is not going always be the way I think it should be. I am excited to grow more and more in my faith in Him, along with being willing to embrace the change. These few weeks I know the Lord has been working in me to not get so frustrated with my teammates because I am not connecting with them, and just being patient.

Thank you! Hope all is well in Plain!