

# Joyful Heart Women's Newsletter August 2007

I had the opportunity to be part of the Tijuana Missions trip last year and did a lot of the same things we did this year. It was a great experience; however, this year's trip offered an experience of a life time. I went with the intentions of ministering to the needy, but this experience ministered to me so much more in return in so many different ways. The group we went with, the people we met, the children we worked with, the work we did, the morning devotionals, and the evening services all offered a spiritual learning experience. Through it all I got to experience the love and compassion that Jesus Christ felt.

Through the group I got to see and experience how the body of Christ, with so many different parts and functions, works outside of a church environment. All for the purpose of serving others and how God can use a person no matter how old you are if you just allow Him. The whole week I could feel His presence among us. I could see and feel His love pouring out of all of those in our group while they served.

On the trip I met people I had seen at church but never spoke to, but after spending a week with them, I truly love and appreciate them.

Working with the children truly humbled me. I'll never forget them. Not only were they hungry for food, they also demonstrated a hunger for the word of God and wanted to be loved. Which is why Jesus said, "Feed my lambs." It truly reemphasized what the priorities in my life should be, which is to hunger for the things of the Lord and not for the material things of this world.

The children embraced everything you had to offer them even if it was something as simple as a soft, warm smile. It was such a blessing to see how the youth and some of the kids in our group showered the kids with love regardless of the language barrier. The love the children were being showered with reflected on their face.

As we reached the end of our stay, I felt this intense desire to stay and help or rescue every child I had encountered. Then I realized this is how Jesus must have felt for the people He encountered as He walked the earth and why he did what he did for us.

I can't save the world, but I can be His hands and feet and go feed His lambs to help save at least one.

Nancy Sanchez

# CRUZIN' TO SANTA CRUZ WITH THE EVC YOUTH GROUP



Santa Cruz was extremely exciting for me. It was my first time going there. I went with my cousin and my friend. Santa Cruz isn't very close by. The drive there was fun. We drove up on the hills and it was a great view. My ears popped a lot but it was ok. We passed about ten signs that had "Santa Cruz" written on them, and every time I saw that I got excited and knew it was close by. Our driver was Pastor Devin's wife Cindy and the people in the car were my friends Delfina, my cousin Kiara, Leila, and me. They kept me laughing and entertained the whole way there, especially Delfina. WOW! She was funny. One funny thing was when Kiara and I were trying to take at least one photo of a Santa Cruz sign but we couldn't because the car was moving too fast. When we got there I had a stomach ache because I was excited and nervous. When I saw the Big Dipper I was a bit concerned. I got over it soon though. The first ride we went on was this ride that played old music like Michael Jackson songs. After that we lost count of the rides we went on. There was a ride that Delfina couldn't go on because she had a skirt on. So I and Kiara went on a few rides together. Delfina went on a water ride. A couple of rides that Delfina wanted to go on were too scary for Kiara and I so we went on this ride that was attached by a cord and we sat in a little car going above the boardwalk. After it was over I was ready to eat. We ate pizza, had drinks, and waited for a while then we went on the pirate ship for our last ride. We had to meet the others at 10:40. Since we had to meet right there and it was early we went on it again. We waited until everyone got there, took goodbye pictures then we left the boardwalk and walked to the cars. On the way home everyone was falling asleep in the car but not me, Kiara, and Delfina. We were laughing up a storm! We laughed for no reason sometimes. We had a great time. I loved every moment of it and can't wait to go again next year. I actually want to go before next year. Maybe before the summer ends I can go with my other friends and they can enjoy everything I did. I hope to go again but until then I still have the memories in my heart of my first time going to Santa Cruz.

Arielle Fields

My drive to Santa Cruz Beach Boardwalk was awesome! It was awesome because I got to talk to everyone in the car and I got to play with Leila (Devin and Cindy's little baby girl). I rode with Cindy, Arielle, Delfina, and Leila. While we were riding in the car, we noticed that we were driving up a big hill! We also noticed that there were a lot of Santa Cruz signs that we had to take pictures of.

When we arrived at the boardwalk everyone was amazed at how big the whole place was. That caught a lot of people's attention. One of the rides that was there was really fun! It was really fun because you got to lie down and fly like you were on an airplane soaring through the air. That was basically the only fun thing that happened while I was there.

If I got to know Delfina better and hope we will become good friends. I think we would've had a better time together if we would've gotten to go on every ride with each other. I had my cousin Arielle with me and we went on lots of rides together. I would like to go again because the trip was fun and exciting for the first time! I hope to be here in California next year to go with the EVC youth to Santa Cruz again!

Kiara Hayden