



This year the Lord brought together an amazing team of staff and students to be part of the Patagonia mission trip in southern Argentina. Even though all of our students were upper class-men or had just graduated in December, they didn't actually come into the trip ready to pour themselves out. In fact they needed healing and building into before they would be able to do ministry out of an overflow rather than depleting themselves more. We have come to expect this as Lifelines staff and so we always start our trips focusing on a healthy relationship with God and with each other and we use the outdoors as our classroom and backdrop to work on these relationships. Sharing tents, persevering through long hikes, sitting around the campfire and being disconnected from the rest of the world allows our students to take off their masks and really let God and others into their lives. Some might say spending 5 out of 12 days of a mission trip focusing on our group's health is a waste of time, but we know that if we are not experiencing the Gospel ourselves we will be lousy ambassadors of the Gospel to others.



This time spent on being refreshed and reconnected with our Savior really paid off this year and we saw God do tremendous things through our students and staff. We partnered again with a local ministry called "The Shelter on the Lake" which reaches out to all world travelers, but really focuses on Israelis. This year when we got to the shelter they didn't have any travelers staying with them and we were worried that no one would show up to our outreach dinner the last night of our trip. Instead of waiting for travelers to come to us we sent our team all over the city to different tourist spots to engage in spiritual conversations and invite travelers to our outreach dinner. We trained our students in relational evangelism, which means that they actually spent time engaging with people and their stories and listening to them. As we engaged and listened, we looked for where God was already working in their lives and then stepped in with the Gospel when He opened the door for us to do so.



Our students took many steps of faith and were able to share the Gospel with many people, but it was done in a way that respected both the people we were talking to and the relational God we were serving. In the end we had 5 Israelis, a French couple and 3 other travelers come to our outreach dinner! That was our maximum number of people and we were amazed to see the Lord at work in bringing them to once again hear about Jesus our Messiah and how He desires a relationship with us. We are full of awe and praise as the Lord answered our prayers and worked in a mighty way in and through our mission team to draw these people to Himself!

Another highlight of the trip was working with the local church. They had just gone through a rough time as a church, which resulted in a church split. The pastor and his wife were incredible people who have such a huge heart for their community and they long for their neighbors to know and experience Jesus. The first night staying with them, they asked if our group would lead their church service the next day. So, one of our staff guys preached, another staff guy translated and a couple of students shared their personal testimonies of how the Lord has worked in their lives. It was such a privilege to help. It was also such a blessing to spend time with the pastor and his wife and to be able to encourage them and to see their excitement for ministry be revived! Please pray with us for them, that they would continue to be encouraged in the Lord and that the Lord would bless the work of their hands as they seek to make His Name known in their community.



This year Tracy and I will celebrate our 18th year in full-time ministry and we still feel God calling us to be part of building His Kingdom. In these 18 years God has shown us the unique gifts He has given us to take part in this amazing task. This last year we have felt the Lord begin to allow us to dream about what the next stage of our ministry might look like as we seek to live out of these giftings more fully. We don't have many details yet, except that the Lord is stirring our hearts and we will definitely reveal more details as the Lord reveals them to us. We would really appreciate your prayers as we follow the Lord's leading into this next stage of our life.