

[Slosh, slosh, slosh](#)

Posted: 16 Jul 2011 08:56 PM PDT

Matthew N. is a student on our Royal Servants [Costa Rica mission trip](#). She has provided the following report about her experience. Jesus With Skin On is a phrase we use to teach students to look for simple, creative, kind methods to serve others which hopefully will lead to an opportunity to share about faith in Christ.



Man, it rains here in Costa Rica, well, at least during the rainy season. Yet, there's still a soccer game going on; and for some reason, I'm still playing. Slip, slide, splash. The first fall was quickly followed by a second, and soon mud was covering a number of players. Yet, people weren't leaving. In fact, it seemed like with the loss of their last shreds of cleanliness, these players suddenly didn't care about the weather. Instead of going home, they just got more competitive. Soon, people were slide tackling on defense, diving for the ball on offense, and battling for the ball in midfield.

In many ways, that soccer game was a representative of our ministry. Once people were that wet and muddy, they had nothing to lose. Sure, the field seemed like it was more water than grass and yes, we still had an hour and a half long bus ride right after the game, but those players didn't care. They were going to make the most of the game. And as far as I could tell, everyone was loving it.

In the same way, we have nothing to lose in our ministry, except for lost opportunity. After the game, we all knew that we could just go back, change our clothes, and take a shower. Just like after this mission trip, we will all go home and never see some of the Costa Ricans who we ministered to again. To get the most out of this opportunity, we have to dive right in. We shouldn't worry about getting wet or being judged by those we're ministering to. We should be fearless, telling the good news to anyone and everyone.

That soccer game was yesterday, and my shoes are still wet. I guess that's where the game and ministry differ. Although the soccer game was fun, all I was left with afterwards were wet clothes, a cold bus ride, and a memory. However, ministry leaves someone else with an eternity in God's presence. So if we can let go for a soccer game, can't we let go for something infinitely more important?

[Human Trafficking](#)

Posted: 16 Jul 2011 08:43 PM PDT

RT @JobandBethany: [The Nepal team](#) is visiting a ministry that rescues girls out of sex trafficking today.

[Nepal trip photos](#)

Posted: 16 Jul 2011 01:11 PM PDT

We posted new photos of the Nepal mission trip in [Facebook](#) and [Flickr!](#)



[China photos](#)

Posted: 16 Jul 2011 01:04 PM PDT

We posted new photos of the China mission trip [in Facebook](#) and [Flickr!](#)



[Ministry in Cachi](#)

Posted: 16 Jul 2011 01:01 PM PDT

The [Costa Rica team](#) is spending the afternoon blessing and serving the town of Cachi! The rain is not slowing anyone down.

[China Ministry Update](#)

Posted: 16 Jul 2011 12:55 PM PDT



Okay, it's official. Our team has become smokers. I figure each person is up to nine or ten packs of second-hand smoke. It's not very pleasant, but breathing in smoke is a reality in a culture where offering a person a cigarette is still a sign of respect. We'll just have to detox once we all get home.

It's Friday night here in southern China and the end our last official activities. Today each team was assigned either a Chinese or an American (and one Canadian) holiday and they created a skit to perform in front of the whole group to explain the holiday. There were 8 holidays, four western—Christmas, Easter, Fourth of July, and Thanksgiving (one group did Canada day, complete with hockey stick)—and four Chinese holidays—Spring festival, Fall festival, Boating day, and a local Zhuang holiday. We have 16 groups, so each holiday was represented twice. It was a great way to get out the Gospel message in a low key way.

Tomorrow we have a field trip to the Stone Forest, a beautiful area of weird stone formations (easy to get lost!), and performance night. Performance night is when we pull out the skill groups the China students put together at Training Camp. It's an evening filled with singing (the Chinese students LOVE karaoke), dance, laughter and fun.

The team has been working hard at all of the activities. Yes, there are fun things each day, but the tiredness can be seen behind the eyes of just about every student. I've been doing this type of ministry for 10 years and I learned that you just can't underestimate the emotional energy it takes to talk to and lead eight to ten Chinese, for four-and-a-half hours each day. It's draining but satisfying.

Here's a schedule from a typical day:

- Up at 6:45am
- Breakfast is at 7:30 (oatmeal)
- 8:00 break to rooms (laundry downstairs by 8:20)
- 8:30 we leave for the school (a 20 minute walk)
- 9:00-11:30 in small groups with Chinese
- 11:30 walk back to hotel

- 12:30-1:00 lunch
- 1:15-2:15 personal devotions
- 2:15-3:00 small group time to talk about devotions
- 3:30 meet and walk back to school
- 4:00-6:00 interact with Chinese small groups
- 6:00 walk back to hotel
- 6:20-8:00 break for dinner (every other dinner is with discipleship group)
- 8:00-9:45 worship, bible study, teaching and processing the day
- 10:00-10:30 in rooms
- 10:30 lights out

Aren't you tired just looking at that? You should be, I know I am. No, wait. That's because I'm living it each day! (My schedule adds about 1½ hours on each end of the day.)

Prayer points:

1. **Open hearts.** We are working with the Zhuang people—an official unreached people group. For stats, Google, “The Joshua Project.” For most of them, this is their first encounter with a Christian. Before a farmer can plant a seed, he must break the ground. And simply put, we are doing a lot of ground breaking, as well as seed planting. I'm not worried about the harvest, that's the Father's job. We just need to be faithful to the task.
2. **Strength.** The team is working hard, but even though they get a full eight hours sleep, the heat, pace, and demands of the program are tiring them out.
3. **Unity.** The team has great attitudes, but tiredness accentuates issues. As you know, it can make mountains from molehills. We are working hard at keeping their eyes on Christ, as well as on loving and respecting each other. Almost without exception, the team is doing really well.
4. **Transition.** On Monday we leave here. It will be a 24-hour travel day, by bus, to our next location. We will then jump into another program that will run Wednesday (July 20) to Sunday (July 31).

Thanks for your prayers. As a leader I appreciate the time all of you reading invest on your knees for our “family.”

Germany Ministry Update

Posted: 16 Jul 2011 12:29 PM PDT

Hi Guys, Here is a little update of our time in Germany. If you want to follow Euroquest go to <http://reignministries.org/royal-servants/friends-family/euroquest-mission-trip/>.

It is 7:30 AM and we are about to leave Frickhausen and head to Austria. We have had two incredible days of life and ministry here in Germany. I think what the students were most excited about was there was free hot water at the camp site. A lot of campsites charge) \$0.50 Euro for a hot shower which is \$0.75 USD. Most of them take cold showers because its either a hot shower or gelato, and of course gelato trumps a hot shower any day. Yesterday we spent the whole day in Rothenburg doing performances and exploring the city. We had a lot of opportunities to walk people through connecting with God. In Rothenburg you meet people from all over the world so it makes for a lot of interesting conversations. And yes we ate Kabobs. The team loved them.

Last night we came back to camp for a late dinner and we played volleyball with a bunch of Polish campers. We finished the day with a time of worship and sharing what God has been teaching through our quiet time. It is so cool to see what God is teaching our students and staff.

We have an 8-hour drive to Zell Am See, Austria which is about 16 veggie tales episodes, at least that is what I used to tell my kids when we went on road trips.

Our coach driver has to take a mandatory two day break from driving so that means when we park the coach tonight it can't move until Tuesday. We are going to be doing a lot of camp site ministry, and we are going to try and put on a volley ball camp for kids at the camp site.

We are having a few technical difficulties on sending pictures but when we get to Austria I think we will have all the bugs worked out.

My son Tyler is in China and sent his first email. I thought it was pretty funny so I am including part here for your humor: "Yesterday I tried dog and it was really good. The place we went to just had a dog sitting in a glass case and half of it was already gone. The meat had the skin and every thing still on it. I even tried a piece of its ear.