

O Happy Day

This month we celebrated el Día del Amor y la Amistad in Mexico. To help celebrate the love and friendship aspects of this day, we helped some of our friends with a simple craft — creating trees with heart-shaped leaves. These friends live in local retirement home here in Guanajuato. Everyone seemed very pleased with the results of their project, and many were eager to give their tree to a loved one or showcase their art in their room. What a happy day, indeed!



It wasn't part of our original plan to offer crafts and activities at this retirement home. Our intention was to visit every so often to talk with residents as a way to practice Spanish. But somehow it quickly turned in to us going every Wednesday to lead an activity for the residents that do not attend mass at the local catholic church. It has become a valuable experience to present all of the activity information in clear, concise Spanish. Let's just say that the very first day was not a grand success. However, we are grateful for patience and grace on behalf of the residents — and second chances!



We share the joy of having a “happy day” at the retirement home to illustrate how God seems to be stretching us in how we are engaging in our community, in our church, and even in our classes at school. It is exciting to see how Erin is now able to understand and participate in the majority of the conversations that come her way, and that both of us are starting to catch some of the cultural nuances that can be missed in the early parts of language learning.



It is so fitting that February 14 is called the “Day of Love and Friendship”. We can have friendship with God because of His love for us, and because of the loving sacrifice of His son, Jesus Christ. Your love and friendship remind us of His gift, as does the love and friendship we have experienced here in Guanajuato. We pray that in our visits to the retirement home and in our other daily activities, the light of Christ will be seen in how we love and serve.

Thank you for your prayers as we continue studying, practicing, and applying the lessons we are learning each day.

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