

## Top 10 praises from the last few months...

1. **Baseball.** Without a doubt, working with our 13 and under baseball team has been my favorite part of life for the last few months. Four of the boys on the team have been playing with us for a couple years. The other 14 were new this year. The season was filled with ups and downs, but seeing them grow together as a team and watching each of them mature was a true pleasure. I even got to coach a game all by myself- one of the most terrifying experiences ever! A few of the players are now coming to youth group and church regularly. That is the most rewarding!



2. **Baptisms.** The angels and Jesus had a lot to rejoice about these last few months. However there were 3 special baptisms that I was able to witness. A father and his 13-year-old daughter were baptized on the same day. Another teenage girl made the bold decision to be baptized, even without the approval of her parents. She and two of her sisters have been coming to church regularly for almost two years. However, their parents have never joined them. They allow them to come but have told the girls they couldn't be baptized. One of the girls knew it was the right thing to do and the next step in her faith. So we drove to a nearby creek and baptized her- without posting pictures. Her bravery and boldness is inspiring!



3. **Friend visits.** The groups are great, but friends are even better! Two friends got to come in the last month to spend time investing in this community and just loving on me. Their visits brought a special time of renewal and solid conversations. Thankful that God provides lifelong friends and airplanes!



4. **Hijos del Rey.** Our Sunday afternoon children's program is thriving and growing rapidly! We are consistently having over 130 children in attendance. Last week we began a new theme "Names God Calls Us." God is blessing the workers and the children. Praying we keep up with the level of enthusiasm and enrichment in teaching to show these children who God really is.



5. **Team Arkansas USA.** One of the groups that came this summer was a group of 9-11 year-old boys and one girl (like our team). They came with the purpose of sharing the love of baseball and the love of Jesus. They accomplished their goals! Their coach, Shane Fullerton, has a deep passion and talent for the game. It was an honor to have them teaching us and playing with us! Their coordinator, Andrew Baker kept reminding us we are one family. After their visit we started each game cheering, "VAMOS, FAMILIA!" "Let's go, Family!!"



6. **Church.** Singing in church with my Nicaraguan family brings such joy and peace. I know this is the way God intended worship to be. We are filled with Him when we are giving Him the glory. I still don't know all the songs we sing nor do I know all the words; but I know enough to say, "Our God is good."

7. **Uplift.** Once a year all the teens across Nicaragua are invited to a day of worship and games. Sponsored by Uplift at Harding, this event is always a lot to plan and prepare for when we're looking at over a thousand teens in one place. The morning was filled with praise and lessons, and the afternoon finished out with soccer, volleyball, kickball and Bible bowl. Seeing how everyone worked together to execute the day was a blessing.



8. **Hike to the cross.** I've been to the cross many times with many groups or solo. One morning the youth group went up to the cross and spent time singing and laughing. It was a beautiful way to be together.



9. **Interns.** Between May and August we had summer interns with us. They were a great blessing to this community, our visiting groups and especially our staff. They helped lighten the extra load with groups and made for some good company for me too.

10. **Visiting groups.** Also from mid-May through mid-August, we had 15 consecutive weeks of groups. Wow. They were a huge blessing to this community and church as they served in many different arenas. From medical to schools to preaching in church to construction to massages to staff team building to sports training. Each group brought their talents and found a way to share them while sharing Jesus. It was wonderful, and now we're thankful for a time to regroup.