



Our team was met with multiple unexpected challenges prior to leaving and during the trip. Some examples were family members becoming ill before leaving, work demands, lost luggage, concerns of possible health issues during the trip, etc. Despite these things, God was greater and allowed the team to put all the obstacles to the side and focus on the work we were called there to do.

Our mission from the local missionary was very clear, we were to focus on discipling the local church leaders, while partnering with them by going into homes to share the Gospel. The local missionary has created an intentional method of specific Bible lessons to teach new believers or prospective believers about Jesus and how to follow Jesus. Our men all divided up and went out into the villages with a local church leader. In the homes, one of the team members would share their testimony, share the Gospel, and teach a Bible lesson to the group assembled.

The local church had been preparing for our team to come work alongside them for the past 45 days. They wanted to maximize the time while we were there. They were challenged to assemble teams of 3-4 locals, a translator, and to schedule a minimum of 3 homes daily to visit during the 3 days of ministry. The local believers have been following this model for about 5 years now, this was just normal ministry with guests for them. They are small churches, but healthy and this was encouraging!

Day 1, each local team leader was asked to provide an update of how many teams they had assembled and the houses they planned to visit. The locals had assembled many teams and scheduled visits around the state. The first estimate was around 100 houses were scheduled to hear the Gospel and begin discipleship lessons over 3 days. But much like western culture, people became sick, couldn't get off work, or had other things to prevent them from going out to do ministry or allowing people into their homes. By the end of the week, the local church estimated about 50 different homes were visited during the ministry time. That's not counting that most teams went to the same houses 2-3 times over 3 days. There was 1 baptism, many people that heard the Gospel for the first time, and many young believers that received discipleship by group Bible lessons. Another important note, the local church celebrated their 5th year anniversary while we were there. That church alone is responsible for planting over a thousand home churches in the state. God is doing BIG things through the church and is using them to reach the entire country for Christ.

Please continue to pray for these believers. It is illegal to convert to Christianity in this region. They face real persecution when they profess faith in Christ.



- Steve Vatter and Team