



Here's What We're Talking About

West Clinton Mennonite Church

Appalachian Trail Thoughts

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by Rick Kauslick

I have been preparing for this hike for 3 years; I can't believe it is time to go already. I have a nervous knot in my stomach, so I guess that's a good thing. I would just like to take the time now to thank Mr. David Swanson for allowing me a leave of absence from work so I can try and live out a dream. Most importantly I would like to thank my lovely wife for supporting me and never questioning me about fulfilling my dream. She has spent countless hours listening to me talk about this. She has been a trooper to say the least. She has helped me budget money in order to help keep the home fire burning as well as having money for my expenses on the trail. Joy has never once said I don't want you to do this. I am a very lucky man and I love my wife very much. We here at home are feeling a little apprehensive about me leaving, but I think that is normal.

My philosophy: "I'm not really concerned about making it to the end, but anticipating what happens in between."

It is the eve before Joy and Kacie take me to Georgia. I can't believe the time has come. Honestly I have had second thoughts this past week. Asking myself if I'm being selfish or does Joy really want me to do this or am I just plain scared. I think the latter probably sums it up the best. Then just yesterday Kacie (my daughter) sent me a quote from a book we both had read. "Fear isn't only a guide to keep us safe; It's also a manipulative emotion that can trick us into living a boring life." Well after reading that, I got pumped up. Yea, I have fear, but I'm done living a boring life. The next email from me will be in about a week or so. I'll fill you all in on Trail Life to that point.

Peace,
Rick

My dad wanted us to send out a picture of him beginning his AT hike. Something cool that happened was that one of his friends, Michael, surprised him and came down to Georgia and hiked the approach trail with him. When we sent them off, he was pumped and ready to go!

-Kacie



Time Flies...

The past month has been an interesting one. We have seen a new country, seen devastating effects of earthquake and Tsunami, started a new schedule, and seen six new believers be baptized. It has been a wonderful month.

To start off, I will talk about our trip to Llico. It was a short trip, around 48 hours. We got there and immediately started to put furniture together and play with the thirty some kids that live there. We stayed up very late and were exhausted from the 12 hour trip there. We were all going to sleep in the "Sede" or the community center. That was fine with us. But around midnight, the residents of Llico started bringing in mattresses, blankets, and pillows. Pretty soon there were enough for all eight of us to have a mattress. As I laid there exhausted, I couldn't help but think of how many people in Llico were without a mattress or blanket that night. The next day we spent the day with the kids, distributing the building materials and invitations to the kids program. We had a skit planned as well as a skit by Eliana and Ricardo, the couple we work with on Tenglo Island. We decorated the Sede with tons of balloons and streamers, and packed a candy bag for each child. Well, we packed thirty-three. We really had no idea of how many would show up. As the kids started to show up, I tried frantically to count the kids. I kept counting wrong because the kids were very energetic. All the while my team is telling me "calm down, even if you don't have enough, you can't do anything about it." After playing a game with all of them, and doing a skit on the love of God, we passed the candy bags out. Thirty-two kids. One bag left. Thank you Jesus! The rest of the day was different for everyone, Michelle and I took an adventure with around fifteen of the kids to what we thought was the soccer field, but turned out to be just walking through what used to be ocean looking for "huevos." I have no idea what kind of eggs we were looking for that we never found, but it was a good opportunity to talk with the kids even though we got lost in the sun and 90 degree weather. My personal guide was a twelve year old boy named Freddie. He was slightly overweight and at one point in the adventure, he asked me what kind of boys I like. I was thinking "the young, chubby type." But nonetheless, Freddie came away with my heart. The people were very gracious and hospitable. It was a very humbling experience.

A few weeks ago, the church we work with was having their baptism Sunday. They made it into a retreat for the whole weekend. We headed out on Sunday morning for the service. It was exceptionally beautiful that day. Pastor Eduardo gave a small service on what baptism is and why we do it. There were also a few kids camping out on Tenglo that week from the rowing club, and we invited them to the service. Felipe the trainer at the club came. The baptisms were beautiful, with dolphins swimming in the background.

The next Tuesday at the Rowing Bible Study, Felipe and Belén expressed that they wanted to get baptized. "The service at Tenglo made me realize what baptism is, I used to be afraid of what others thought of me, but now I don't care anymore" Felipe explained. He said before he wanted to wait until he got to be more perfect or more ready. "But now I realize I will never be perfect. But That is the beauty of it! Christ makes us perfect!" Felipe said. There was not a dry eye in that room (for the women at least). Belén explained they wanted to have the baptism that weekend. They immediately started plans. The two also talked to their friend Carmen Gloria (Yoya) and she decided to get baptized as well. The baptism was just as beautiful as the one the week before. After the service, we all swam out about 200 feet into the bay. There were dolphins to our right and sea lions to our left- only about 50 feet away. It was a beautiful ending to an amazing day. We look forward to having at least one other baptism service on Tenglo.

We had to renew our visas by going out of the country. So I mean, since we had to, we headed to Bariloche, Argentina. It was a great week of rest and relaxation and a lot of wonderful food. Especially the Ice Cream and Chocolate. We even met up with some missionaries there and had pizza with their family the last night we were there.

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Time Flies Continued

Our March Schedule goes as follows:
 Monday is still our day off.
 Tuesday we go early and teach some businessmen people English then have Rowing Bible Study in the evening.
 Wednesday we have team time in the morning and head to a restaurant to tutor English to the kids for an hour and adults the next.
 Thursday we teach the businessmen again, and then head to Alerce to teach more English.
 Friday is tutoring at the restaurant again.
 Saturdays we head to Tenglo to do maintenance there including picking the delicious blackberries.
 Sunday we go to Alerce for church, then go to the girl's home to hang out with the girls, and then come to the community center to tutor rowing kids in English.

Sound like a lot of English? It does to me too. But luckily we all enjoy it.

Prayer Requests:

- That we find ways to share Jesus while teaching
- We learn the best ways to teach English.
- Our Spanish as always...
- That our friends would start to ask questions about God, especially kids from the Rowing club.

Sarah Aeschliman

ANNIVERSARIES

- Lester & Marge Miller ~ 58
- Daryl & Margaret Nofziger ~ 51
- Marvin & Estelle Grieser ~ 60

P RAYER REQUESTS

Structure
 Stacy Nofziger
 Sarah serving in Chile
 Relationship
 Nick serving in Kenya
 MYF
 Leadership
 Jess & Naomi
 Healing
 Families Struggling with Addictions



HAPPY BIRTHDAY

- 70 + Years Young
- RichardFrey ~ 77
- Gene Waidelich ~ 75
- Arlene Grieser ~ 88
- Delmer Beck ~ 84
- Lois Rufenacht ~ 79