

GYTTE-AWARE 2019 Group Reflections Belmont UMC Mission Team

--Renewed dedication to be present in the “here and now”; to receive as well as give the love that is present in this place, whether during work or in simple interactions with the staff of GYTTE.

--I have a new appreciation of what poverty can mean, both positive and negative!
Negative—how truly little people in the developing world have;
Positive—How happy they can be with so little. I also appreciate directly now, how much can be accomplished with “intermediate technology”, which I had heard a bit about, but never seen it in action before. **Clearly, a focus on nutrition, health, and housing can accomplish miracles!**

--It has been an inspiration to see and experience the openness and giving of the spiritual and dedicated staff to all our activities. We have made friendships and learned new things about all the folks in our travel group, which has been wonderful. But the love and caring from the leadership and staff of the GYTTE group has been amazing!

--My life and faith have been impacted by the little children who are full of happiness even in the midst of chaos, poverty, and hardship. I found the face of Jesus in all the villagers and staff from their warm smiles and welcome. The staff took care of us and watched out for us even with their busy schedule and that really inspired me.

--My experience here made me want to more fully live the Gospel message of Jesus, “I was hungry and you fed me...”
I was so impressed by the emphasis of sustainability. I loved the smiles and witnessing the pride that everyone took in their work.

--I have a greater understanding of what poverty means and how the people here cope with it. I came not knowing this group from Belmont and am grateful to get to know, talk with, and agree with my fellow travelers. I am grateful to now have these new friends. I appreciate the knowledge that Nan and Miguel have imparted to us, and hearing their different points of view about NAFTA, Venezuela, immigrants, etc.

--It is always wonderful to work with the various people here at the Tree of Life Center, and to see them smile and laugh even when there is a language barrier. I love seeing the faith and love the people have, because it helps me see how insignificant our worldly possessions truly are.