

CLAUDIO ORDONEZ

Dear Leenus & Vincent Thiag,

I would like to thank the Dalit Solidarity organization for giving me the opportunity to be able to experience this heartwarming culture that we were greeted with. This trip has taught me to be grateful to the number of things that we have at our disposal back in the United States. At the start of our trip, we didn't have a good beginning as our flights were delayed and flights had to be changed. Our bags had not arrived with us and were limited of our resources to not having changes of clothes to not having personal hygiene items for the first 5 days. This had showed me how to be flexible and work with what we had. I am so grateful for Money and Kumar for being so patient as well as Sylvester. Money and Kumar took us and were amazing to getting us the clothes and simple supplies we needed to get through the first five days. The thought and organization of the welcoming was an experience that I will forever take with me. From the music, to the sparklers, to the dancing; everyone had smiles and excitement on their faces.

The amount of planning that had gone into where we were sleeping and the bathrooms we were given was a special treatment. The medical camps that were planned gave me an understanding of the living conditions that many of the people in the villages around were living like. From going in a house with a roof that is made of the surrounding vegetation and seeing how happy the family was, and how happy people were all around even if they were sick, the greetings and the smiles that were given showed me the happiness of the culture and the amount that they were willing to give. Going to the government hospital must've been one of the most amazing experiences as were able to enter the operating room and see surgical procedures as well as be hands-on.

I am extremely thankful for Leenus for her goal of making all of us happy. I can't believe she left her family behind for the holidays and gave up so much of her time just, so we would be able to maximize our experience and be as happy as possible. The doctors that we came across as well as the staff, were so welcoming and taught us as well as interpreted many of the language barriers that we had. I am so thankful for everyone and hope to inspire others to go on the trip.

Thanks,
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