

To Whom It May Concern:

I had the opportunity to go on a short term mission trip with Rick and Ruth Odess last year (2012). They were the leaders on a trip to El Salvador for the purpose of helping to build a house and adding on to a church in the Chalchuapa area. Or so I thought.

As we traveled to El Salvador they would share stories about previous trips and the people that you meet on them. You come understand that the trip is not about the activities you are going to do but really about meeting God in other countries and through other people. It is coming to understand that we are all God's children wherever we are from and that is the real purpose of the trip, to develop relationships with our brothers and sisters in Christ.

Rick is the leader in all aspects of the trip. He organizes the details of the travel and transportation. He guides us through what to expect and coaches everyone on how to handle different experiences and yet he gives us all the opportunity to experience the trip in our own way. Ruth is his perfect helpmeet. She is there for support for him and everyone else. She leads in her own way by the example she sets in making connections with everyone we meet.

The opportunities that God provides through Rick and Ruth are a blessing for any Christian who wants to go deeper in understanding their faith and the impact God has in our lives. I would encourage anyone who has the chance to go on a short term mission to go or if not to support people like Rick and Ruth

I was blessed on this trip to meet new brothers and sisters and to form connections with people I will never forget. And if I am called to go on another mission trip I hope it is with Rick and Ruth. At this time I am planning on joining them on their trip to Cambodia in 2014.

In Christ,

Carl L.

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