



Mission to El Salvador

Victoria Showalter spoke at the Treynor Optimist Club on June 14 about a six month mission trip she had to El Salvador. She graduated from Treynor in 2013 with plans to go to UNO in the fall. In July she went to a weeklong conference called "Life" sponsored by Envision. That inspired her to want to go on a three month mission. The cost would be \$1300 per month.

In August she started the interview process and by mid-September she was approved. She left October 10, fully funded for six months. Her church, Faith United in Shenandoah, was a big support.

Her first job in El Salvador was in graphic design for a brochure. The mission raises and sells coffee to raise money.

Next she became a nanny for four children, ages 3-10, from December through February. She had two years

of Spanish in High School, so she could communicate some.

Victoria came home for 10 days at Christmas. She got ill because of the weather difference while at home.

In February Victoria became the Director's assistant. Then she got the chicken pox and came home two weeks later.

In El Salvador, the upper class has a nanny and a maid because it is very inexpensive. The really wealthy have car drivers also.

Many families take their children out of school to sell to tourists. If they are good at selling, they do not go back to school. The country has a bad gang problem. The United States contributes to the problem, because illegal immigrants are put in jail until they are sent back home. While in jail they connect with gangs.

The people eat a lot of starchy foods, beans, and bread. Pineapples also grow there. The milk is not pasteurized. For breakfast most people have eggs and milk. For lunch they have pita pockets full of cheese and fried beans. The water is bad, so they have to use purified water. You also have to sanitize the fruit.

Women wear long pants. Everyone has a TV and many people have satellite dishes. People are always late to meetings or appointments.