



SIMPLE ACTS Can Have a BIG IMPACT

by Mike King

As we carried the heavy backpacks loaded with books through customs, I thought about how this trip began...

This was my first trip to El Salvador, although I have been involved in this ministry since 2014. I was familiar with these trips, but this was the first time I would actually be making the trip myself.

Earlier in the year children of our parish donated books for children in El Salvador through the Scholastic Book Fairs at School and Early Childhood Center or through donations from student in our Children's Faith Formation Program. Parishioners bought simple school supplies such as paper, pens and crayons for us to take on the trip. Since it would have been too expensive to ship the books and their arrival would have been uncertain, we decided to take them with us. So... we carried 110 pounds of books through the airport – not an easy thing to do!

Because we are so blessed, collecting these donations was a simple thing to do. But when we got to our sister community, San Rafael Cedros and presented these gifts, something amazing happened. These simple gifts became the living Word of God! Some of the children had never seen a crayon before, but they were soon making pictures for their parents. The joy on their faces was truly inspiring! The community didn't have a library for the books, but that didn't stop these special people. They found an old bookcase on the front porch of the coordinator's (Iris) home to use as the community's first library.

I felt so blessed to be able to be a part of this. After coming back home, these are treasured memories remind me I am truly blessed. My hope is that my fellow OLP parishioners will also feel called to do something simple to help.