



Caleb's Story

Caleb is ten years old and loves going on mission trips. Over the last two years he's traveled to Kenya and Bolivia to help build school classrooms and a church. When his mom announced that she was taking him and his brother on another mission trip to India, Caleb couldn't wait.

"I think I was really excited about the cultural experience because I wanted to see how the other people live in these countries that they don't have enough of what they need," said Caleb.

Caleb and more than 60 other volunteers traveled to India over the Christmas holiday to help build a large school building at the Khunti Adventist school. When he arrived at the campus, one of the boys took him on a tour of their classrooms. Caleb was surprised by how large the school was, much larger than his school. But he wasn't impressed by how old and broken down the classrooms were.

"I think if I had to learn in one of these classrooms then I would probably like school less than I do now," said Caleb

Next to some of the old classrooms was a giant slab of cement and a metal structure. This was the new classrooms they had come to build. They quickly split up into teams and began building the classrooms. The classroom walls are built by stacking large concrete blocks that weigh around 30 pounds each!

Caleb helped by spreading mortar on the blocks using a tool called a trowel. Mortar is sticky substance that acts like glue to keep the blocks together. He would scoop up a bit of the mortar and spread it out on the bottom and sides of each block. Another volunteer would place the heavy block on the wall. The walls of the new classrooms were rising before his eyes! He was excited to see the building quickly take shape.

"I think it's really cool because if everyone in the world could be educated on the right ways of living, it would be a better world," said Caleb. "And I think if they're going to have a workspace, it should be a good workspace."

The group worked day after day, including on Christmas. It was very different than how Caleb is used to spending the holidays.

"This is definitely the first Christmas I have spent working," said Caleb. "I usually sleep in and eat lots of food and do nothing all day."

But Caleb doesn't feel like he missed out by working to help others on Christmas instead of staying home and opening presents.

“It’s so amazing that we can bring so much joy to other people and I think that if everyone in the world spent their Christmases like this, the world would just be an all around better place,” said Caleb.

Your donations to the Kids for Classrooms program are helping Maranatha build this large building--big enough to fit all the elementary school students at the Khunti Adventist School. Currently, the school must turn away hundreds of students because there just isn’t enough space. This new school building will also give them a large auditorium for worships, assemblies, and a place to play on rainy days. But your donations are doing more than building classrooms. You’ll also be helping more kids learn about Jesus and providing service opportunities for volunteers like Caleb. Thank you for being missionaries right where you are!