

So I returned to Germany after 11 months in Colombia

So I returned to Germany after 11 months in Colombia. What shall I say? I guess it was the best year of my life. To work in Tota with the pupils and the teachers was an incredible experience. I think I can say easily that they own a big part of my heart now. I never will forget them and I hope that we can hold the contact.

The first 3 months were of course a bit difficult for both sides. I didn't speak the language and they didn't understand English that good. The exceptions were the English teachers. But with the students it was really hard to gain their trust. After a while we were getting closer. My Spanish improve and finally we had a connection. 1 student told me once in his graduation that trust in teachers and people like me is the most important for them and it's the most difficult to get.

I'm really glad that I could make this connection to them. Especially the last 6 months in my school were... amazing. I can't describe how happy I was in this time. The feeling that you were accepted by the students, by the teachers, yes even in the whole village, were incredible.

When I joined the class in the morning the pupils smiled like they were really happy to see me and this kind of acceptance made me also happy. I loved the celebrations (and they have a lot of them! ☺) in Tota too. It was always a good possibility to talk with my pupils outside the classroom about personal subjects.

I know this report is for showing my experience in this year but I want to thank here the English teachers for their support and their help in my first months.

Also I want to thank Felipe for his support and his ideas to make my classes better and more interesting for my students.

If someone asks if this year was worth it. I just can say: Yes! I would do it right now again!

Torsten Leonhard
21.2.2014