Esta foto es una foto que significa mucho para mí. El niño en esta foto fue en la iglesia que nos trabajamos. Me pregunte el dónde está los padres del niño y le digo que no se. Ese momento mi corazón duele mucho. También yo realicé que muchas niños en Guatemala viven en situaciones similares a eso niño. Niños que no tienen padres es una problema muy común en Guatemala y otras lugares pobres.

Before visiting Guatemala, I had read a short passage about street children in Guatemalan Journey (Benz, 1996). From what Benz had researched, he noted that many of these children end up living on their own because their families are too large to feed and take care of. Consequently, many of these children steal food and other necessities in order to survive on their own. As a result, street children face a great amount of brutality from the police, increasing the social issue of street children even more.

Knowing that this little boy was most likely facing such a terrible form of survival, I couldn’t help but tear up when he pulled my hand down to take a picture with him. It was clear that he received very little love and comfort, if any. I know that there wasn’t much that I could do to help the situation that he was in, but being able to play with a bouncy ball with him made him smile, and that was very meaningful to me.
Mire en esta foto. Hay dos camas y otros cosas de las personas que viven en esta casa. En esta cuarto, normalmente, cuatro personas duermen aquí. Como ves, las condiciones que las personas viven son insalubres y pequeño. Condiciones como eso crean lugares de manifestación de enfermedades y propagación de enfermedades.

One of the most difficult parts of my time in Guatemala was being able to see some of the homes/huts that many Guatemalans live in. Pictured above is a space where four people live and sleep. There is no light in the house and the floors and walls are compiled of dirt. Living conditions such as this are most likely the cause of such large amounts of infection and disease in Guatemala. Additionally, the spread of disease and illness is manifested in these conditions because of such close living quarters.

As a global reaction to the terrible living conditions that these people experience, many people (children) are migrating to the United States in search of better opportunities and a better life. After seeing the conditions that these people live in, I don't blame them for sacrificing their lives to come to the United States. I know that it is becoming a problem for the United States because we aren't sure what exactly to do with such a great influx of people, but it is hard for me to understand how they can be deported when I have experienced, first hand, the conditions that they are coming from.
La mujer que está de pie en el foto es un ejemplo de muchas mujeres en Guatemala. Nos ayudaron muchas mujeres que hablaron de dolor de sus espaldas, sus pies, sus rodillas, y sus hombros. Mucha dolor que ellas tuvieron fue de trabajado física que ellas hicieron durante sus vidas. Dolor de trabajado física fue una problema muy común en mujeres que nos ayudaron en Guatemala.

In the book, *To the Mountain and Back* by Jody Glittenberg, she writes about the short childhood that children in Guatemala have. More specifically, she talks about the labor roles of women and the young age that women start working around the house. In chapter five Glittenberg says that women engage in planting corn, preparing food in the morning for men, finding and collecting firewood, fetching water, washing clothes, feeding and tending to livestock, and are called, “alma de la casa,” meaning, the hearth or fireplace (soul of the home). From all of the duties that women must attend to during the day, it is clear that they experience a great amount of physical labor. Unfortunately, this labor takes a great toll on the physical health of women.

Even though we were hoping to treat children with disabilities, many of our time was spent on helping women and mothers who experience a great deal of aches and pains like the woman above. Unfortunately, there was really no way for us to help their pains other than giving them some stretching exercises. What would be more ideal is for the women to take a break from the physical labor that they are doing, but in the culture that they live in, everyone in the family has to do their share of work in order to meet the needs of each other. The woman taking a break from their role would put the whole family in a complicated state. Situations like this make me thankful for the opportunities that I am granted with in the United States.
Esta foto es de un lugar donde mujeres limpian ropa en La Vega. En el centro de la construcción es una piscina de agua. Las mujeres aguantan afuera de la piscina y limpian ropa por muchas horas durante la día. Steve y otras personas en La Vega dicen que esta trabajo es uno de muchas que mujeres hacen cada día. No se puede en esta foto, pero este trabajo físico es probable una causa de los dolores y molestias de las mujeres en Guatemala. Dolores y molestias fue una problema muy común para mujeres que nos ayudan en Guatemala.

This is a perfect picture to help the understanding of physical labor that women engage in everyday. As mentioned in the previous photo, many women came to the clinics with an abundance of aches and pains that were mostly incurable due to the way of life that these people live. In order to relieve their aches and pains, they would need to take a break from the physical labor that they engage in. However, taking a break from their way of life is not an option that they can take. This picture is one more reminder for me to not complain about tasks like laundry because there are people that are performing physical labor for hours when washing their clothes.
Esta foto es de la calle en Antigua, Guatemala. Uno de los problemas de las calles de Guatemala es que están hechas de adoquines. Por consiguiente, personas que tienen sillas de ruedas no se mudan mucho en la ciudad porque la calle está peligrosa. Como Los Estados Unidos, personas que tienen sillas de ruedas tienen problemas de accesibilidad.

Handicapped accessibility remains a significant problem in many parts of the world. Even Xavier University struggles with wheelchair accessibility, despite many newly constructed buildings. For those who use wheelchairs, walkers, canes, etc., third world countries are somewhat of an impossible environment to live in. Going to the market or visiting a neighbor could be a difficult task whether living in the cobblestone-street cities, or dirt paved roads. Not only are these everyday tasks difficult, but they are life threatening in places like Guatemala.

Notice in this picture for example, there is a sidewalk that appears to be fairly smooth, but then there is a driveway where the sidewalk just, ends. There is no ramp down to the driveway from the sidewalk; instead, it is somewhat of a cliff. Therefore, someone in a wheelchair is trapped, unless they decide to roll off the sidewalk and possibly tip over.

After visiting Guatemala and then coming back to the United States, I observed so many places that are the same as Guatemala. For example, my hometown square is fairly old and has an abundance of restaurants, shops, etc. However, many of the shops are up a few stairs, have too steep of a ramp, or have too narrow of a doorway for people who are in wheelchairs. As part of my observation in the United States and Guatemala, I now understand how handicapped accessibility remains a global problem.
Esta foto es de una niña en la casa de Daryl. Ella tiene parálisis cerebral que es una problema muy común en Guatemala. Durante mi tiempo en Guatemala, pregunté a las terapistas y a mis profesoras porque parálisis cerebral es muy común en Guatemala y le digo que doctoras en Guatemala no tiene la tecnología para el nacimiento que nos tiene en Los Estados Unidos.

Looking further into the issue of birth in Guatemala, I researched the infant mortality rate. Unfortunately, the statistics indicate that about 28 deaths occur per every 1,000 births in Guatemala (infoplease). In comparison, the United States has 6 deaths per 1,000 births (infoplease). From my knowledge of cerebral palsy, I know that it often occurs during pregnancy or during the birthing process. In combination with the lack of technology in Guatemala and the statistics that display the infant mortality rate, one can assume that cerebral palsy is a disability that runs alongside the same types of causes that infant mortality does. Unfortunately, other issues like malnutrition and pregnant women lack of education are most likely contributors to the large population of people who have cerebral palsy.
Esta foto es de un lugar de sacrificios por las Mayas. Esta lugar fue en la posterior de Iximche. Puede ver que un sacrificio fue completa antes de nos vinimos porque estas ruinas de un animal y dentro de las rocas es una vela quemando. Las practicas de las Mayas son importante de la historia de Guatemala y para muchas personas que viven en Guatemala hoy.

Being able to see the place of a mayan sacrifice ritual was something that really helped me gain appreciation for the diversity and tradition in Guatemala. Moreover, being able to actually be present to a sacrifice of a chicken while in La Vega was an experience that I will never forget. It was that moment where I felt a bit of a culture shock like Glittenberg described in chapter 13 of her book, *To the Mountain and Back*. It was an overlap of thoughts and emotions that I was experiencing. For example, if I were to witness something like this in the United States I most likely would have made a disgusted face during the ceremony. However, when sitting in the school setting in La Vega, I knew that this experience was an honor and a privilege that they felt comfortable enough to perform this in front of us. I actually felt honored and grateful to be able to witness a ceremony like this. I didn't make a disgusted face, but instead maintained an interested and intrigued facial expression. I didn't want to include the sacrifice pictures that I had taken because I wasn't sure of the appropriateness of them being exposed.
Esta foto es de un niño que vive en la casa de Daryl. Él es ciego y sordo y no sabe como caminar. Fue muy interesante ver y observarlo. Carol y yo trabajamos con él para comprender esta niña. Después del tiempo con ese niño, yo hablo con Wanda, la esposa de Daryl sobre los niños que tienen discapacidades y opiniones de las personas en Guatemala.

Before visiting Guatemala, I had learned a lot about the negative opinions that people have toward children with disabilities. It seemed to be common that disabilities were shameful for the family, and therefore, disabled children were often kept hidden from the outside world. I wanted to find out if this type of behavior was actually common in Guatemala, so I struck up an interview with Wanda about this cultural issue in Guatemala. Wanda confirmed what I had been learning in Spanish 258, and said that disabilities are embarrassing and shameful for the people of Guatemala. She said that one day, her, Daryl, and her children (disabled and not) were outside playing in the yard. Gradually, more and more of her neighbors circled around them all playing together. She said her neighbors had shocked faces and couldn’t understand how they were interacting with the disabled children. A few days after that, one of her neighbors came over to talk to her and said that she had a child who was disabled as well. Wanda told me that they had lived next to them for a few years and Wanda had no idea that her neighbors had a disabled child because they kept their child inside (a secret).

From this short interview with Wanda, I was able to get a real-life explanation and understanding of the stigma surrounding disabilities in Guatemala. I couldn’t believe that she had known her neighbors for so long and had no idea that they had a disabled child. That fact was significant to me because it proves the embarrassment that Guatemalan people really feel surrounding children with disabilities.
Work Cited


[http://www.infoplease.com/ipa/A0934744.html](http://www.infoplease.com/ipa/A0934744.html)