2015

Mother Teresa in Kolkata, India

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In February of 2013 I attended a medical mission to Kolkata, India for Operation Smile. Since we were there for a prolonged period of time we had time to explore places around us. One of the other places we volunteered at was the Mother Teresa in Kolkata, India where Mother Teresa originally founded her operations and helping sick people on the streets. The building also, still stands today at 54A, A.J.C. Bose Road, Kolkata, West Bengal 700014, India. This is the place where most of the remains of Mother Teresa are, and also where mass for the sisters is held.

When you first arrive at the house, it is almost impossible to tell which one it is. It is sitting on the side of a busy street and just looks like any other building in the city. Once you walk in you immediately know you are in a place of worship. The building there holds people off the streets that are in need, a large area for mass, and a museum of Mother Teresa and her old belongings. When you see this place you really understand how much Mother Teresa has changed it because there museum includes belongings such as a napkin she used for a week, a wood chair she sat in every day, a toothbrush she used, and etc.

All of the sisters have had to take a vow to not live life more fulfilling than the patient that they are caring for. Which means if the patient starves they starve with them and if they can't drink they do the best they can to not drink with them as well. This also means they are probably the most caring, understanding, and nicest people I have ever met in my life.

Also, since there are so many people that need help there are houses located throughout India and throughout the world. So I spent my first day at the museum, another day at the house for children with mental disabilities, and another morning for mass with the sisters. Mother Teresa's power of how great she is also brings in people from around the world that will show up just to stay at the house for weeks or months at a time and help the sisters care for everyone. I met people from China, Spain, and many other European countries that were doing just that and they were all knew English and were easy to talk to and fun to learn everyone's story of why they were there.

The morning mass started promptly at 6 a.m. and you couldn't be late. The sisters have a strict schedule to stick to so that they can help the most people. It was just like any catholic service here except it was more dry and spoke more to people who have taken a much further understanding in the bible than the average Joe. You had to be extremely quite throughout the mass and pretty much just listen and pray with the sisters. Even though you do not understand everything that the sisters are doing, being at the house, volunteering, and just being able to supply a helping hand for people in such distress was one of the most fulfilling and powerful opportunities
of my life. •

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