This is Jorge, a 15 year-old boy with cerebral palsy. One of the work sites in Oaxaca is helping Jorge with daily physical therapy. I spent many afternoons with a family with five children. One of them was Samuel, who I am holding in the above picture. We spent our time with the children playing games and having fun.

I spent my mornings at the nursing home. Here, I could visit with the residents who needed care with open arms and hearts. They shared stories of their lives and helped me practice my Spanish. Our time with them was very special.
Oaxaca is an area rich in culture and tradition. One of the best things about my summer was that I was given the opportunity to truly experience this culture by being immersed in it. We lived among the people and learned from them. We also visited amazing places such as archaeological ruins at Mitla and Monte Albán. In the picture below are dancers in the Guelaguetza, the most popular festival.

Another site where I spent my afternoons was at a church teaching English classes. We had quite an age range—young children to mothers. They all had one thing in common—an incredible desire to learn.

↓ One of the many historic churches ↓