

# Guatemala

Calvary Chapel High School  
Missions Adventure  
February 3-11, 2012



We were bold in our God to speak to you  
the gospel of God..  
1 Thessalonians 2:2

# First Steps

WELCOME to the trip of a lifetime! We are looking forward to an incredible time of outreach and ministry in Guatemala. This tour guide will give you basic details about our trip, including our itinerary, important contact information, your daily devotions, and much more!

- Be flexible! Plans and itineraries will change.
- Be prepared! Each day, take time to review our activities and plan for the day. Have everything you need for morning through night.
- Be in prayer! Keep our team, the people of Guatemala, and our outreaches in prayer.
- Be pro-active! Ask the Lord to work through you, and take steps of faith to do His will.

*And the gospel must first be preached to all the nations...Mark 13:10*



*Only let your conduct be worthy of the gospel of Christ, so that whether I come and see you or am absent, I may hear of your affairs, that you stand fast in one spirit, with one mind striving together for the faith of the gospel,*  
*Philippians 1:27*

# DAY 1

Tikal, Guatemala  
travelblog.org



**Friday, February 3**

**En Route to Guatemala!**

*For I am not ashamed of the gospel, for it is the power of God  
for salvation to everyone who believes, to the Jew first  
and also to the Greek.*

*Romans 1:16*

# Flying Details

## Flight Reminders

- Keep your passport close and see an adult leader with any concerns about your travel documents.

- Do not leave your carry-on or personal luggage unattended at any time!

8 PM- Meet at the Charis Building to fly to Guatemala! Eat dinner before you come. Receive your second luggage piece, final travel instructions, and pray together as a team.

9 PM – Depart for LAX

SATURDAY at 12:35 AM – Depart for Guatemala City on LR641

## Emergency Contact Information

Francisco Reyes

727 471 8791

Additional leader cell phone numbers will be emailed when we arrive in Guatemala

## American Embassy in Guatemala

Embajada de los Estados Unidos de América

Avenida Reforma 7-01, Zona 10

Guatemala Ciudad, Guatemala

(502) 2326-4000

## All About the Money, Honey

The Guatemalan currency is the quetzal - official exchange rate is 1 US Dollar to 8 quetzals. So, for example:

5 dollars = 40 quetzals

10 dollars = 80 quetzals

So on, and so forth! We will be able to exchange money at the airport and in all tourist areas.

# Good News

A 10 day devotional focused upon the Gospel of Jesus

There is great importance in getting the gospel right. This seems like a no-brainer but if we don't know the good news of Jesus correctly and if we don't get it right then we have unintentionally distorted the image of Christ to those around us and to those we may be reaching with the gospel.

After all, there are many gospels being preached today. It is one thing to communicate a gospel and a whole other thing to communicate the gospel. The apostle Paul reprimands the believers in Corinth for accepting the teachings of people who have delivered to them a different gospel (2 Cor. 11:4). This same apostle also warns the believers in Galatia to not accept a gospel contrary to the one they received and he pronounces a curse upon the one preaching that false gospel! (Gal. 1:9)

It seems clear that the scriptures declare the importance of receiving and preaching the right gospel. This devotional is written that you might be confident in the gospel you have received and that you may boldly live the gospel and preach the gospel today and always.

May the Lord of glory open your eyes to the greatness of Christ and His gospel.

Day 1: Is the gospel really Good News?

-How the gospel is the best news ever delivered.

Day 2: Is the gospel really that important?

-How the gospel brings salvation to us through Jesus Christ.

Day 3: What is the gospel?

-How the gospel is both simple and complex

Day 4: The Divine Will

-How God chose to love and adopt us.

Day 5: The Incarnation

-How our God came to save us.

Day 6: The Life of Christ

-How Jesus lived and what that means for us.

Day 7: The Death of Christ

-How death can be good news.

Day 8: The Resurrection of Christ

-How new life only comes through Christ

Day 9: The Ascension of Christ (Part 1)

-Why did Jesus have to leave?

Day 10: The Ascension of Christ (Part 2)

-Where did Jesus go?

# Random Facts

1. Whose favorite places to visit are Balboa Island and camping in Carpinteria?
2. Whose socks haven't matched for two years?
3. Who is scared of swimming in pools?
4. Who is creeped out by Styrofoam?
5. Who sneezes every time they eat an Altoid mint?
6. Who hates beans and cookie dough?
7. Who once gave Jennifer Garner her baby's binky which she had dropped?
8. The human body has 256 bones. Which team member has only 255 ?
9. Who is teaching themselves to play ukulele?
10. Who works on a boat?
11. Who is afraid of rollercoasters
12. Who is afraid of napkins?
13. Who has a pet snake and five pet chickens?
14. Who used to swim competitively?
15. Who has broken seven bones?
16. Who fell out of a window when they were a baby?
17. Who was supposed to be on the show "Malcolm in the Middle"?
18. Who loves boys with webbed toes?
19. Who has a secret fear of white vans?
20. Who loves Grace Kelly (a lot!)?
21. Who has been bit by many animals including snakes, dogs and lizards?
22. Who is a Belieber and afraid of heights?
23. Who met Joe Torre (former Yankees coach) in Starbucks at Metro Pointe while he was still the coach?
24. Hat der menschliche Körper Zweihundertundsechs Knochen, hat dieser Mensch nur Zweihundertundfunf?
25. Who would say: one of my many life long dreams is to own a gun and hunt wild life, specifically birds?
26. Who used to call chocolate milk "juicy cocoa"... but doesn't anymore?
27. Who fell off a boat at the boat parade?
28. Whose role model is Kramer from Seinfeld?
29. Who is scared of heights?
30. Who loves to crochet?
31. Who has a fear of mannequins?
32. Who flew a plane when they were 10 years old?
33. Who gets their hair cut at Gods and Heroes Salon?

23. Craig Coffin  
24. Josh Spera  
25. Jordyn Robnett  
26. Bella Coia  
27. Tami Mckeown  
28. Luke Hill  
29. Brandon Michaels  
30. Brianna Frawley  
31. Rachel Hayes  
32. Brooke Ballard  
33. Joel Lopez

12. Dylan Goodman  
13. Natalie Frisby  
14. John Mizuhara  
15. Jennie Bergsma  
16. Brooke Tenorio  
17. Connor Mellemma  
18. Kylee Jane Stone  
19. Jessi De Ruyter  
20. Samantha Lager  
21. John Mizuhara  
22. Rachel Stice

1. Mitch Clevidence  
2. Darlene Escalante  
3. Lilia DeCrescentis  
4. Jach Mckeown  
5. Kristina Zercher  
6. Christian Warden  
7. Esther Yardley  
8. Josh Spera  
9. Belle Trevino  
10. John Mizuhara  
11. Laura Ramirez

# DAY 2

Tikal, Guatemala  
travelblog.org



**Saturday, February 4**

## **Getting to Guatemala**

*But as we have been approved by God to be entrusted with the gospel, even so we speak, not as pleasing men, but God who tests our hearts.*

*1 Thessalonians 2:4*

# Saturday Details

12:35 AM – Depart for Guatemala City on LR641

7:15 AM – Arrive in Guatemala City

8 AM – Scheduled bus pick up from airport

9 AM – Check in to local hotel, rest

12 Noon – Lunch

2 PM – Youth outreach and activities with 100-125 people

4:45 PM – Central Church event with 25 teens from the church in Guatemala

6 PM – Dinner

7 PM – Team devotions and updates

8 PM – Spiritual Care Groups

10 PM – Bed



# Daily Devos

## Day 1: Is the gospel really Good News?

How the gospel is the best news ever delivered

As followers of Jesus or as church attendees we hear the word “gospel” thrown around with little reflection upon its meaning. As you may know the term “gospel” means the good news. But I would submit a change, if at all possible, so that gospel would be defined not as “good news” but as “the greatest news.” We all experience good news during our life time, anything from our parents receiving a new promotion at work to an acceptance letter to the college of our choice. Good news comes and goes in our lifetime and unfortunately can be overshadowed by bad news. This bad news can range from the destruction of your parents’ marriage to the loss of a loved one. One of the glorious truths about the good news, the gospel of Jesus Christ, is that it cannot be overshadowed by any of life’s bad news. The good news of Jesus conquers all of life’s situations and news that follows. This gospel, this good news sustains us in the present and causes us to look forward to our future that has already been secured by Christ.

But is the gospel really good news? Look at the statement given by the angel to the shepherds on the night of Christ’s birth. “Fear not, for behold, I bring you good news of great joy that will be for all people. (Luke 2:10) This gospel we preach in Christ is this good news of great joy. Even the title of angel simply means a messenger. You too are a messenger of God and have been entrusted with the same message that the angel delivered to the shepherd on that holy night in Bethlehem. This message is found in the next verse, “For unto to you is born this day in the city of David a Savior, who is Christ the Lord.” The gospel begins with a Savior being born to you, to me and to everyone we meet today. So, when we declare the gospel today by word and deed may we remember that it is good news of great joy because our God gave us a savior and he is Jesus. This is truly the greatest and most joyous news any person will ever hear. So go tell it today.

In one sentence, why is the gospel good news?

# Guatemala

1. The official name of Guatemala is the Republic of Guatemala and the name Guatemala comes from the Maya-Toltec language and means "land of the trees".

2. The country is 108,889 square kilometers and is ranked as 106th (out of 251) largest country by the CIA Factbook, right between Cuba (105) and Iceland (107).

3. Spanish is the official language of Guatemala, but there are over 20 different Mayan dialects that are spoken throughout the country, especially in rural areas. Some of the dialects are so drastically different from each other, that people speaking in those dialects might not even be able to communicate with each other, even though they are considered to speak the same language.

4. A scene from the original Star Wars movie "A New Hope" was shot in Guatemala in the Tikal National Park. Check out the photo below!



5. The Guatemalan currency is the Quetzal. The currency is named after the Resplendent Quetzal, which is a fragile and rare bird that happens to be the national bird of Guatemala. Apparently, in the time of the Mayan Empire, the birds tail feathers were actually used as currency. Dylan Goodman still shops using them.



6. Guatemala is home to three UNESCO World Heritage Sites including the Spanish city of Antigua, the mayan ruins of Tikal National Park, and the ruins of Quirigua.

7. Shortly after Guatemala gained its Independence from Spain, the United Provinces of Central America were formed. The confederation was made up of present day Guatemala, El Salvador, Nicaragua, Honduras, and Costa Rica. It existed from 1823 until 1840, when it was split up by continuous civil war between the different regions. At that time Guatemala claimed to own what is present day Belize so that land would have also fallen under this confederation.

# Hotel Casa Blanca

**15 calle "C" 7-35  
aurora 1 zona  
13, Guatemala  
City**



The Hotel Casa Blanca Inn is very close to the airport. They provide free breakfasts and have high speed internet access. The staff are very friendly and helpful.

The rooms are very big with comfortable beds and hot showers! The area doesn't have a lot of restaurants around so it was nice to stay in and still have a nice meal at their restaurant. Enjoy your stay!!!



# Hotel Casa Blanca

Room 1:  
Joel Lopez  
Jach McKeown  
Logan Stevens  
Mark Estrella

Room 2:  
Laura Ramirez  
Brooke Tenorio  
Rachel Stice

Room 3:  
Rachel Hayes  
Emily Lopez

Room 4:  
Nina Anderle  
Lilia DeCrescentis

Room 5:  
Darlene Escalante  
Jessi De Ruyter  
Samantha Lager

Room 6:  
Tami McKeown  
Tabotu Amare

Room 7:  
Bella Cota  
Brianna Frawley

Room 8:  
Sarah Yardley  
Tori Sather  
Kylee Stone

Room 9:  
Halie Reece  
Belle Trevino

Room 10:  
Kristina Zercher  
Jordyn Robinett

Room 11:  
Natalie Frisby  
Brooke Ballard

Room 14:  
Jennie Bergsma  
Esther Yardley

Room 15:  
Joshua Spera  
Brandon Michaels

Room 16:  
Christian Warden  
John Mizuhara

Room 17:  
Dylan Goodman  
Craig Coffin  
Mitch Clevidence  
Luke Hill

Room 18:  
Kenny Wood  
Dave Eason  
Taylor Dischner  
Connor Mellema

## Remember

As Joel Lopez would say, no purple!  
No boys in girls rooms or girls in  
boys rooms EVER!

# Spiritual Care

## joel lopez

- Mitch Clevidence
- Luke Hill
- John Mizuhara
- Taylor Dischner

## craig coffin

- Brandon Michaels
- Connor Mellema
- Dylan Goodman
- Jach McKeown

## kenny wood/

## josh spera

- Christian Warden
- Mark Estrella
- Logan Stevens

## tami mckeown

- Kylee Stone
- Nina Anderle
- Kristina Zercher
- Jennie Bergsma
- Samantha Lager
- Tori Sather
- Esther Yardley

## darlene escalante

- Brooke Tenorio
- Emily Lopez
- Natalie Frisby
- Brooke Ballard
- Bella Cota
- Halie Reece
- Brianna Frawle

## sarah yardley

- Tabotu Amare
- Rachel Hayes
- Jordyn Robinett
- Jessi De Ruyter
- Belle Trevino
- Rachel Stice
- Lilia Decresentis

The purpose of spiritual care groups is for you and your teammates to spend time seeking Jesus together, reflecting on what He shows you during the trip, and growing in your relationship with Him.

*Our prayer is...*

*For this cause I bow my knees unto the Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, Of whom the whole family in heaven and earth is named, That he would grant you, according to the riches of his glory, to be strengthened with might by his Spirit in the inner man; That Christ may dwell in your hearts by faith; that ye, being rooted and grounded in love, May be able to comprehend with all saints what is the breadth, and length, and depth, and height;*

*And to know the love of Christ, which passeth knowledge, that ye might be filled with all the fulness of God.*

*Now unto him that is able to do exceeding abundantly above all that we ask or think, according to the power that worketh in us, Unto him be glory in the church by Christ Jesus throughout all ages, world without end. Amen.*

-Ephesians 3:14-21

# Spiritual Care

## Questions

- What was the most encouraging part of your day?
  
- What was the most challenging part of your day?
  
- If you had to choose one thing to do differently tomorrow, what would that be (i.e. pray more throughout the day, try to take a step of faith, get out of your comfort zone, talk to someone you don't know, look for opportunities to put others before yourself, etc.)?

Read a Psalm (27, 91, any your group chooses) together. Share how this Psalm reveals Jesus to you today!

# DAY 3

Tikal, Guatemala  
travelblog.org



**Sunday, February 5**

**Church and Zacapa**

*For our gospel did not come to you in word only, but also in power, and in the Holy Spirit and in much assurance, as you know what kind of men we were among you for your sake.*

*1 Thessalonians 1:5*

# Sunday Details

*Leave suitcases in hotel with backpacks packed for  
3 days out of the capital city*

7:30 AM – Breakfast

8:30 AM - Check out and depart for Sunday service

10:30 AM – Participate in service at CC Guatemala City with music, drama, and Sunday School

12 Noon – Lunch

1 PM - Depart for Pasabien, Zacapa (2 hour trip by bus)

3 PM – Check into Hotel La Casona de Pasabien, Zacapa. Bunk beds, no air conditioning. No rooming - find the bunk bed of your choice!

4:30 PM - Festival with kids, youth band, and dramas, hosted by Pastor Daniel on a basketball court. 250-300 people expected.

7 PM – Dinner

8 PM – Spiritual Care Groups

## Random Facts!

Guatemala is ground zero for chocolate. They invented the first chocolate bar during Mayan Times.

*The average woman in Guatemala works more than any other women in the world **except maybe Tami McKeown or Darlene Escalante.***

The highest mountain in Guatemala is the Tajumulco volcano. It has an altitude above 4500 meters or 14000 ft.

*The Mayan culture was rich in mathematical computations. They are credited with first creating the concept of Zero!*

# Daily Devos

## Is the gospel really that important?

How the gospel brings salvation to us through Jesus Christ

There are some popular preachers today who espouse a gospel that is not the gospel of Jesus Christ. Some of these TV preachers have enormous followings and very “positive” messages. Their messages are actually so “positive” that they avoid any use of words like sin, justice or wrath. If you listen to their sermons, if we can call them that, you would assume that the traditional gospel of the church is not that important. They are only preaching part of the gospel and sometimes a very small part. But can someone come to a saving knowledge of Jesus Christ if they have been told a gospel that does not deal with sin?

Even the message given by John the Baptist who prepared the way for Christ started with a “negative” word these preachers will not touch with a ten foot pole: repent! That word implies that someone is not where they should be. That place where they are is called sin and it is the ultimate taboo word for these preachers.

Though misled, many of these preachers are brothers in Christ who are unfortunately preaching part of the gospel but not all of it. They are trying to remove the offense of the gospel but what they are really doing is disarming it of its saving power. The gospel must include these unpopular words and concepts. When the gospel is preached rightly it will be joyfully accepted by some and offensive to most.

1 Corinthians 1:18 describes this perfectly:

*“For the word of the cross is folly to those who are perishing, but to us who are being saved it is the power of God.”*

Notice that the gospel is also called the word of the cross. Those preachers often ignore the wooden altar on which Christ died because the cross is where that unpopular truth, sin, is finally dealt with. This message proclaims the sinless life of Christ in contrast to our sinful life. It proclaims his death upon the cross for our sins. And it proclaims his resurrection from the dead in which he conquered sin and death...for us!

# Daily Devos

This glorious gospel shows that these negative realities some choose to ignore are finally conquered in Christ. This gospel is not popular among the world system and never will be. But this gospel is the one preached by Christ and his apostles and is the very power of God for salvation to everyone who believes. May we be those who speak and preach the full gospel rightly that the power of God for salvation may be poured out to all those who hear it.

*Rom 1:16 For I am not ashamed of the gospel, for it is the power of God for salvation to everyone who believes, to the Jew first and also to the Greek.*

*[Read 1 Corinthians 1:17-31]*

In one sentence, why is the gospel important?

# CC Guatemala



## CALVARY CHAPEL GUATEMALA DISTINCTIVES

Ministry is not a profession, it is a call. (Hebrews 5:4)

We believe that it is consistent with God's model that the pastor be led by the Lord and helped by elders to discover the mind and will of Jesus Christ for his church, and that this, in turn, is then implemented by the assistant pastors. (Ephesians 1:22)

*Pastor Francisco and Ruby Reyes*

We believe that there is an experience of power given by the Holy Spirit to the life of the believer, and that the Holy Spirit must move in order to spread to those around us. (Acts 1:8)

In regard to the edification of the church, God will do his work -- all I need to do is be faithful to him. It is not my church, it is his church. (Zechariah 4:6)

We recognize that without the grace of God none of would have a chance. We need the grace of God in our lives. (Hebrews 13:9)

Our commitment is to declare to the people the whole counsel of God. The only way that we can do this is by teaching the word of God - book by book, chapter by chapter, verse by verse. (Acts 20:27)

Jesus Christ is the center of our worship. (2 Corinthians 4:5)

We await the glorious manifestation of our great God and Savior Jesus Christ. (Titus 2:13)

God chooses people like us, fills us with his Spirit, and then does a powerful work through us that stuns and confounds the world. (2 Corinthians 3:5-6)

Without love all of the gifts and operations of the Holy Spirit are worthless and without meaning (John 13:35)

We need to step aside and see what it is that the Lord can do. (Acts 11:6)

# Zacapa, Pasabien

Zacapa is one of the most interesting departments of the Republic of Guatemala for both its geographical location and the charisma of the population, who are famous because of its inventive ability. In addition, it is known because of its traditional cuisine and milk byproducts.

The department of Zacapa has an active role in Guatemala's economy and as an example there are many plantations of tobacco, melons, tomatoes, grapes, and okra (Natalie Frisby's favorite food), most of them for export to other countries.

Zacapa is a land of contrasts since plane lands are dominated by a hot, dry almost desert land, while huge humid template forests are found at the Sierra de las Minas Mountains.

Guatemala is host to one of the richest biological treasures (other than Connor Mellema) in the world –the habitat for 10% of all species registered on the planet. This encompasses 19 eco-systems, 300 microclimates and 33 volcanoes, five of which are active. Travelers can go from cloud forest to a black sand beach on the Pacific coast in just a few minutes. There are 93 protected areas and 25 classified as special protected areas, which range from mangroves on both coasts to mountain cloud forests. They all add up to 1.4 million hectares in the Maya Biosphere Reserve, one of the ecologically most important.

Zacapa cuisine features a variety of spices and why not, since many of the world's spices are grown here. Virtually every traditional dish has its own story that the chefs will proudly share with visitors. Visitors who venture into Zacapa's markets will come out with a wealth of ingredients, the occasional parasite, and a new food vocabulary, from ajonjoli to cardamom. Fruits and vegetables are daily staples with exotic such as pitaya, pacayas, and jocotes jostling for position alongside traditional melons and avocados, and a large variety of vegetables and fruits.



# DAY 4

Tikal, Guatemala  
travelblog.org



**Monday, February 6**

## **Rio Dulce**

*The Spirit of the LORD is upon Me, Because He has anointed Me  
To preach the gospel to the poor; He has sent Me to heal the brokenhearted,  
To proclaim liberty to the captives And recovery of sight to the blind,  
To set at liberty those who are oppressed.*

*Luke 4:18*

# Monday Details

7 AM – Breakfast

7:30 AM – Team Devotions

8 AM - Check out of hotel

9 AM – Visit local waterfall

11 AM - Travel to Rio Dulce church (2 hour trip by bus)

1 PM – Check into Hotel Costa Grande, Rio Dulce Izabal (3 star, with AC)

1:30 PM - Lunch with local kids

2:30 PM - Festival with 150-200 people

6 PM – Dinner

7 PM - Church service participation

8 PM – Return to hotel

8:30 PM – Spiritual care groups

# Daily Devos

## What is the gospel of Jesus Christ?

How the gospel is both simple and complex

If the gospel is the power of God for salvation then it would be important for each of us to know what the gospel is. Thankfully the apostle Paul breaks down the gospel for us in (1 Corinthians 15:1-7). Read it!

Notice the progression of the gospel: Christ died for our sins, he was buried and he rose from the dead three days later. That is the basic outline of the gospel and is very helpful to commit to memory. It is the bare-bones version but it is not the gospel inside and out. This description of the gospel is specifically given to focus upon the real resurrection of Christ and the reality of resurrection for believers. The reason this is the focus is because the Corinthians doubted that there even was a resurrection. So the way the gospel is described in these verses is not exhaustive. For example the gospel accounts don't start with Christ dying. The gospels according to Matthew & Luke begin with the birth of Christ. Mark's gospel begins with John the Baptist and Jesus' ministry and John's gospel begins before creation ever existed!

So what is the beginning of the gospel? Is it his death, his ministry, his birth or his divine love before creation? For the very beginning of the gospel read (Ephesians 1:1-14). (Read it!) We will discuss this in further detail tomorrow.

Keep in mind that the gospel is amazingly simple and yet profoundly complex. If you know the basic outline of the gospel as described in (1 Cor. 15:1-7) don't stop there. Don't be fooled into thinking that you have the gospel figured out. All of scripture is the gospel because all of it testifies of Jesus. Spend time exploring the depths of the gospel for in it is revealed the glory of Christ. If you do this you will never grow weary of loving and following Jesus.

In one sentence, what is the gospel?

# Rio Dulce

RAY OF HOPE  
"Rayo de Esperansa "

In Rio Dulce, Guatemala, there is a footpath connecting the back of the Mario's Marina property with a roughshod road built to maintain a national gas pipeline. If you walk the pipeline westward, you'll pass a few huts that serve as houses with chickens, goats and pigs roaming around in the yards.

Some are guarded by scrawny, mangy dogs whose pitiful conditions make them absolutely no threat. After you go by a couple of small cinderblock buildings doubling as homes and evangelical churches, but before you get to the rubber plantation with its trees scored and collecting the white goeey prize, you'll come to a crossroads. Take a left. Follow the rock-laden, trash-strewn path past the panaderia (bakery) and a couple more huts into the central park of the "village" of La Esmeralda.

It's late November and the whole place is quiet, the school on its north side closed for the two month winter break. The normal commotion caused by children in the classrooms is absent except for two little boys throwing firecrackers harmlessly out into the open grassy area that also serves as a soccer field. The church building opposite the school sits shut tight. But, there is activity in the building adjacent to the school where a small group of people mill around. It's all women and children. They are waiting for the Clinica Rayo de Esperanza en Jesucristo (Clinic of Hope in Jesus Christ) free medical clinic to open.

## Geographical and Historical Information

Rio Dulce, Guatemala is a place of unmatched pristine natural beauty in a protected biosphere reserve located in Eastern Guatemala.

When the Spanish colonized Central America led by Captain Mark Estrella and Captainette Belle Trevino, Antigua, Guatemala was the capital of all of Central America. Communication, travel, and shipping between Antigua Guatemala and Spain came via the Rio Dulce, inland to Mariscos, and then overland to the capital. Prior to that, the Rio Dulce was important to the Mayan civilization.

The Rio Dulce is steeped in history.



# Hotel Costa Grande

## Area B

B2

Tami McKeown  
Brianna Frawley  
Brooke Ballard  
Rachel Hayes

B4

Rachel Stice  
Lilia DeCrescentis  
Kristina Zercher  
Jennie Bergsma

B1

Sarah Yardley  
Nina Anderle  
Brooke Tenorio  
Halie Reece

B3

Jordyn Robinett  
Belle Trevino  
Tabotu Amare

## Area A - Bungalow

A2

Laura Ramirez  
Tori Sather  
Samantha Lager  
Emily Lopez

A3

Darlene Escalante  
Bella Cota  
Kylee Stone  
Esther Yardley

## Area A - Rooms

A4

Joshua Spera  
Logan Stevens

A6

Craig Coffin  
Connor Mellema  
Christian Warden  
Mark Estrella

A7

Taylor Dischner  
Dylan Goodman

## 2nd Floor, Area A

A8

Kenny Wood  
Jach McKeown  
Mitch Clevidence

A9

Joel Lopez  
Brandon Michaels  
Luke Hill  
John Mizuhara

## 2nd Floor, Area T

T5

Dave Eason  
2 Guatemala Pastors

## Remember

As Joel Lopez would say, no purple!  
No boys in girls rooms or girls in  
boys rooms EVER!

# Spiritual Care

- What was the most encouraging part of your day?
  
- What was the most challenging part of your day?
  
- What have you seen so far that has surprised you about life in Guatemala?

Read Romans 10:15. How did today challenge you to bring the Gospel to people who would never hear it otherwise?

# DAY 5

Tikal, Guatemala  
travelblog.org



**Tuesday, February 7**

## **Ministry in Rio Dulce**

*For whoever desires to save his life will lose it, but whoever loses his life for My sake and the gospel's will save it.*

*Mark 8:35*

# Tuesday Details

7 AM – Breakfast

7:30 AM – Team Devotions

8 AM – Depart for festival in local public school with drama, music and kids outreach. 200-250 students expected.

12 Noon - Lunch

1 PM - Return to Guatemala City (4 hour drive)

5 PM – Check back into hotel with our suitcases

6 PM – Dinner

8 PM – Spiritual Care Groups

## **Random Facts!**

### ***The Geography of Guatemala***

Total Size: 108,890 square km

Size Comparison: slightly smaller than Tennessee

Geographical Coordinates: 15 30 N, 90 15 W

World Region: Central America and the Caribbean

General Terrain: mostly mountains with narrow coastal plains and rolling limestone plateau

Geographical Low Point: Pacific Ocean 0 m

Geographical High Point: Volcan Tajumulco 4,211 m

Climate: tropical; hot, humid in lowlands; cooler in highlands

### ***The People of Guatemala***

Type of Government: constitutional democratic republic

Languages Spoken: Spanish 60%, Amerindian languages 40% (23 officially recognized Amerindian languages, including Quiche, Cakchiquel, Kekchi, Mam, Garifuna, and Xinca), .01% a language only Brandon Michaels speaks.

Independence: 15 September 1821 (from Spain)

National Holiday: Independence Day, 15 September (1821)

Nationality: Guatemalan(s)

Religions: Roman Catholic, Protestant, indigenous Mayan beliefs

# Daily Devos

## The Divine Will

How God chose to love and adopt us.

As described yesterday, the beginning of the gospel is God's choosing to love us and to adopt as sons through Jesus. Many people freak out over the theological controversy of (Eph. 1:3-14), specifically in reference to our being chosen and predestined. Every believer in Christ and his word believes in predestination. Shocking statement, I know. Let me explain: The concept of predestination and the word itself is used multiple times in scripture. Where believers divide is in how predestination is defined. One side takes the stance that predestination means to predetermine, to decide who would be chosen based on nothing in them or about them in the future. The other side teaches that predestination, God's choosing of us, is based on his foreknowing of our future faith and our choice of him. But whatever side of the predestination debate we find ourselves we must remember the purpose of this section in Eph. 1. The purpose is not to tell us how God's predestination works but that it exists. That his love in choosing us existed long before the world ever did. Even that is not the primary purpose of this section.

The primary purpose of (Eph. 1:3-14) is to show the Ephesians, who are believers, that God has given them every spiritual blessing in Christ.(v. 4) The first spiritual blessing give to us is his predestining covenantal love. This divine choice to love us and adopt us as his kids is the beginning of blessing and the beginning of the gospel. Have you ever stopped to think about the beginning of the gospel?

Read (Eph. 1:3-14) and write a list of all we have been given in Christ:  
*(These are the spiritual blessings)*

In one sentence, what is the beginning of the gospel?

Take some time to pray and let the beginning of the gospel, God's choosing to give you all these blessings sink deep within your soul. Then take a moment to thank him in prayer.

# Hotel Casa Blanca

Room 1:  
Joel Lopez  
Jach McKeown  
Logan Stevens  
Mark Estrella

Room 2:  
Laura Ramirez  
Brooke Tenorio  
Rachel Stice

Room 3:  
Rachel Hayes  
Emily Lopez

Room 4:  
Nina Anderle  
Lilia DeCrescentis

Room 5:  
Darlene Escalante  
Jessi De Ruyter  
Samantha Lager

Room 6:  
Tami McKeown  
Tabotu Amare

Room 7:  
Bella Cota  
Brianna Frawley

Room 8:  
Sarah Yardley  
Tori Sather  
Kylee Stone

Room 9:  
Halie Reece  
Belle Trevino

Room 10:  
Kristina Zercher  
Jordyn Robinett

Room 11:  
Natalie Frisby  
Brooke Ballard

Room 14:  
Jennie Bergsma  
Esther Yardley

Room 15:  
Joshua Spera  
Brandon Michaels

Room 16:  
Christian Warden  
John Mizuhara

Room 17:  
Dylan Goodman  
Craig Coffin  
Mitch Clevidence  
Luke Hill

Room 18:  
Kenny Wood  
Dave Eason  
Taylor Dischner  
Connor Mellema

## Remember

As Joel Lopez would say, no purple!  
No boys in girls rooms or girls in  
boys rooms EVER!

# DAY 6

Tikal, Guatemala  
travelblog.org



**Wednesday, February 8**

## **Enjoying Antigua**

*For I am not ashamed of the gospel of Christ, for it is the power of God to salvation for everyone who believes, for the Jew first and also for the Greek.*

*Romans 1:16*

# Wednesday Details

7 AM – Breakfast

7:30 AM – Team Devotions

8 AM – Depart for Antigua (1 hour drive by bus)

Spend all day touring the beautiful Indian city and ruins. Many Native Indian tapestries and cobble stone streets. Very colorful, lots of shopping, many café's, tourist town.

5 PM – Dinner

6 PM – Return to Guatemala City

8 PM – Spiritual Care Groups

## Random Facts!

Antigua Guatemala (commonly referred to as just Antigua or la Antigua) is a city in the central highlands of Guatemala famous for its well-preserved Spanish Mudéjar-influenced Baroque architecture as well as a number of spectacular ruins of colonial churches. It has been designated a UNESCO World Heritage Site.

Antigua Guatemala means “Antique Guatemala” and was the third capital of Guatemala. The first capital of Guatemala was founded on the site of a Kakchikel-Maya city, now called Iximche, on Monday, July 25, 1524—the day of Saint James—and therefore named Ciudad de Santiago de los Caballeros de Goathemalan (City of Saint James of the Knights of Guatemala). Naturally, St. James became the patron saint of the city. In his honor, we will call Jach: St. Jach today.

On September 29, 1717, an estimated 7.4 magnitude earthquake hit Antigua Guatemala, and destroyed over 3,000 buildings. Much of the city's architecture was ruined. The damage the earthquake did to the city made authorities consider moving the capital to another city. The city had a peak population of some 60,000 in the 1770s; the bulk of the population moved away in the late 18th century. Despite significant population growth in the late 20th century, the city had only reached half that number by the 1990s.

According to the 2007 census, the city has some 34,685 inhabitants.

# Daily Devos

## The Incarnation

How our God came to save us.

One of the most fundamental and memorable aspects to the gospel is the incarnation. Who could ever forget little baby Jesus lying in a manger with donkeys, sheep and other various livestock all around. Unfortunately many people in our culture forget about the Christ-child and if they don't forget about him they seek to take him out of the picture all together. An example of this is seen in the city I live in. At the center of the city is a historic plaza called the Orange Circle. Every year during Christmas they have a traditional nativity scene with baby Jesus and the whole cast. And every year somebody with a mischievous streak in them steals baby Jesus! They take him out of the whole display. This happens in the East Coast as well with daily headlines in the newspaper that read: "Baby Jesus was stolen, "Jesus is lost" or "where is Jesus?"

Interestingly enough, as discussed earlier, some people today would seek to preach the gospel and take Jesus out of the whole message. Others would like to pretend that Jesus never existed in the first place; that he was never here on earth. The doctrine of the incarnation proclaims that Jesus is here! He is not lost or missing but he is here and he has been given to us. But why was he given and why did he come?

The incarnation, which means 'in the flesh,' is the theological word to describe God becoming man. The Eastern Orthodox Church declares that God became man that he might make man like God. What a beautiful statement that sums up the purpose and goal of God's plan to redeem mankind. This doctrine is the first part of God's predestinating divine love being applied to man. This event in which the second person of the trinity, the Word, humbled himself and took the form of a servant reveals so much to us about the love of the Father.

The incarnation shows us that God comes to us and he comes after us. Think on that truth for a moment. Too often we picture the Father sitting on His throne indifferently waiting for us to try hard enough and come to him. But this doctrine shows God, emptied of His glory, coming to us on a rescue mission. This is why he is called the Savior and we call him our savior. Some of our forefathers in the faith have referred to God as the 'hound of heaven.'

# Daily Devos

It is an interesting approach to view our God as a blood hound but just as a blood hound seeks out criminals so too our God seeks us out; criminals. But he does not pursue us that we might be punished but our Father pursues us to redeem us. He comes after us so that we might be His own possession and receive His Son. Jesus came to redeem all that we are that we might become all that he is.

*Read John 1:1-18 (Classic text for the Incarnation)*

*Read John 3:16-21 (Take your time and focus on each truth)*

How has Jesus come after you in your life?

In one sentence summarize the Incarnation:

# DAY 7

Tikal, Guatemala  
travelblog.org



**Thursday, February 9**

## **Los Ocotes & Santa Lucia**

*Even so the Lord has commanded that those who preach the  
gospel should live from the gospel.*

*1 Corinthians 9:14*

# Monday Details

5 AM - Depart for Los Ocotes to feed 120 children before school at affiliate location (16 miles out of Guatemala City)

9 AM - Work on a construction project in Santa Lucia, Guatemala

12 Noon - Lunch

2 PM - Festival and drama with 120 children

4 PM - Return to Guatemala City

6 PM - Dinner

8 PM - Spiritual Care Groups

## Random Facts!

The town of Santa Lucia, though benign enough, is unexciting. The local people around here are descended from the Pipil, an ancient culture that had linguistic and cultural links with the Nahuatl-speaking peoples of central Mexico.

In early Classic times, the Pipil who lived here grew cacao, the money of the age. They were obsessed with the ball game and with the rites and mysteries of death. Pipil art, unlike the flowery, almost romantic style of the Maya, is cold, grotesque and severe, but still very finely done. When these 'Mexicans' settled in this pocket of Guatemala, and where they came from, is not known, though connections with Mexico's Gulf Coast area, whose culture was also obsessed with the ball game, have been suggested.

# Daily Devos

## The Life of Christ

How Jesus lived and what that means for us

After the birth of Christ we must go on to his life and ministry. This aspect of the gospel is often neglected when people communicate the good news to others. They may start with the incarnation and Jesus in a manger but then they jump ahead to his death on the cross. What about the time spent between his birth and death? It was his life that made the other more popular aspects of the gospel a reality. Without his life and ministry the incarnation, the cross and the resurrection would have been meaningless.

Jesus not only preached the good news but he lived it. What about us today? Are we Christians who are preaching the good news and living it or are we like the Pharisees? Those who knew the facts and information about God but they did not live it. How valuable is the gospel to a person who hears it and communicates it but is never transformed by it?

The gospel is meant to transform us so that the life of Christ might be seen in us. Jesus' sinless life of love and sacrifice accomplished two major things for us: He did what we could not do by fulfilling the law for us and He showed us what life in the Kingdom of God looks like.

His life is what our life is meant to be. Does your life look like the life Jesus lives? Are you practicing righteousness? Are you humbling yourself and serving others? Do you live a life of self-Sacrifice? Do you share in the sufferings of Christ? Do you love like Jesus loved? Simply put, do love live for the glory of God? Jesus lived his life for the glory of the Father and for the benefit of his people. We are meant to live that same life. Consider these passages:

*-The Life of Jesus [2 Corinthians 4:8-12]*

*-Practicing Righteousness [1 John 3:7-11]*

# Daily Devos

*-Humbling Yourself & Serving [Philippians 2:3-8]*

*-Modeling Self-Sacrifice [Romans 12:1-2]*

*-Sharing in the Sufferings of Christ [1 Peter 4:12-19]*

*-Loving as Jesus Loved [John 13:34/ 15:9,12]*

Are you living like this? If not...pray and ask the Father to make the life of Christ be manifest in you.

In one sentence: Why is Jesus' life important?

# DAY 8

Tikal, Guatemala  
travelblog.org



**Friday, February 10**

## **School Outreaches**

*For if I preach the gospel, I have nothing to boast of, for necessity is laid upon me; yes, woe is me if I do not preach the gospel!  
1 Corinthians 9:16*

# Friday Details

7 AM – Breakfast

7:30 AM – Team Devotions

8 AM – Depart for Los Ocotes

9 AM - Festival with children in the local school – 550 children, ages 5-13

12 Noon – Lunch

2 PM - Youth sports program and outreach with 300-350 teens ages 12-16

5 PM – Return to Guatemala City

6 PM – Dinner

7 PM – Church service with goodbyes, music, dramas for specially invited guests

9 PM – Return to hotel



# Daily Devos

## The Death of Christ

How death can be good news

Everybody loves a story or a movie that is full of twists and turns and ultimately ends in a way they least expect. Some of us may even have friends and family members that consider it their moral obligation to figure out where the movie is heading and announce it to everyone in the room. This persons attempt at guessing the ending or who the culprit is can be very frustrating if they are right or very humorous if they are wrong. In God's redemptive history of man there are many twists and turns in the story.

One of the biggest twists was God sending his own Son, in the likeness of human flesh, to live among us. Not only that, but he would be born miraculously from a virgin! I guarantee nobody saw that one coming. Then God throws in an even greater plot twist!

This Son of God grows up as any child does, lives a sinless life, performs miracles and preaches about how he came to set the captives free and establish the Kingdom of God. Then He throws in the twist. Jesus, the Son secures freedom for sinners and ushers in the Kingdom not by taking his place upon a throne but by taking his place upon a cross! No matter how committed the disciples were to figuring out the next event in the divine narrative they did not expect the Father's will was for the Son to die.

So, how could the Son of God's death be good news? *Read [Romans 5:6-21]*

This passage gives us the answer as to why Jesus died and why the news of his death for us is in fact good. Notice verses 6-9. This section tells us the truth that we are weak and unable to save ourselves so Christ comes and dies to save us from God's wrath. Without Jesus' death we are all under the wrath of God! Stop and think about God's righteous anger and wrath that he pours out upon all wickedness.

# Daily Devos

How great is this news that proclaims to the sinner that God showed his love for them by sending His Son to die for them so that they would no longer be under His wrath but under His grace. This passage goes on in verses 10-14 to explain the need for Jesus' death. Simply put Jesus reversed all that Adam caused.

Adam brought sin and death and Jesus brought righteousness and life. In order to remove the sin of Adam Christ had to take the penalty and conquer it. That is exactly what he did and we who believe in the Son are the beneficiaries of that victory over sin and death and have received justification, righteousness and eternal life; to name a few. These gifts came through death and that is how death can truly be good news. [*Romans 5:15-21*]

In one sentence: Why is the death of Jesus good news?

# DAY 9

Tikal, Guatemala  
travelblog.org



**Saturday, February 11**

**Final Day!**

*The blind see and the lame walk; the lepers are cleansed and the deaf hear; the dead are raised up and the poor have the gospel preached to them.*

*Matthew 11:5*

# Wednesday Details

8 AM – Breakfast

8:30 AM – Team Devotions

9 AM – Possible hospital visit

12 Noon – Lunch

Afternoon – Visit the Central Market, Central Park, and walk down 6th Avenue

4 PM – Leave for airport

8 PM – Board LR640 to return to LAX

11:15 PM – Land at LAX

## Random Facts!

Guatemala History can be divided into three well-defined periods. The first period began with the arrival of the Spaniards. The second period is marked with the conqueror of Guatemala, Pedro de Alvarado. The third and final part was started on September 15, 1821 with the independence of the nation.

The first part of the Guatemala History is the most interesting one. The Mayan culture that flourished between 2000 B.C and 900 A.D became the subject of many discoveries through the continuous accumulation of information. They developed a Mayan calendar and the numerical system which recorded all the achievements of the Mayans throughout all periods of their rule.

According to the Guatemala's History the second period started in 1524 when Pedro de Alvarado arrived at Guatemala. In July of the same year he founded the capital of the Kingdom of Guatemala in Iximche. In 1527 it was moved to Almolonga from there. Later on in 1543 it was again shifted to Antigua. It was the seat of the government of the Captaincy General of Guatemala. It stretched from Yucatan to Panama. The major economic activities were agriculture and livestock. The capital of Guatemala enjoyed a good time until it was destroyed in an earthquake in 1773. So it needed to return to its old place Guatemala City.

The third period of the History of Guatemala came with its independence from Spain on September 15, 1821. With other nations of Central America it gained the membership of the United Province of Central America. In 1839 Guatemala seceded from this federation and finally in 1847 it proclaimed a Republic.

# Daily Devos

## The Resurrection of Christ

How new life only comes through Christ

If Jesus died and stayed in the grave then his death would not have been good news. The fact that our Lord rose from the dead is necessary for the gospel to be good news for us. Jesus could have become human flesh, lived a sinless life, died on the cross and remained in the grave and there would be no gospel to preach. The reason I draw this conclusion is because death would have won the victory. The Son of God would have been held captive in the earth's clutches; forever to be held under the power of sin and death.

The Apostle Paul confirms the necessity of the resurrection in *1Cr 15:17*. *"And if Christ has not been raised, your faith is futile and you are still in your sins."* Read the whole section of 1 Corinthians 15 for a deeper understanding of the resurrection's role in the gospel.

In one of his epistles, the Apostle Paul seeks to remind and instruct young Timothy in the gospel. Paul writes to him, 'Remember Jesus Christ, raised from the dead, descended from David. This is my gospel' (2 Timothy 2:8). Notice Paul uses the words 'my gospel.' This is in contrast to the other gospels preached during his day. Paul's gospel clearly teaches that Jesus died and was resurrected from the dead.

Other gospels of his day and ours preach a message without the cross and without the resurrection. The events that took place upon the cross and the subsequent resurrection itself is the climax of redemptive history. During the three days when Jesus was in the tomb Satan thought he had won. But as the Son of God emerged from the tomb, death was dethroned and Satan was finally stripped of his power over mankind. The gospel would now go forth to deliver people from darkness to light and safely bring them into the Kingdom of Heaven. (See Col. 1:13)

The resurrection is also a proclamation of the promise of God. Jesus said in John 11:25 "I am the resurrection and the life. Whoever believes in me, though he die, yet shall he live." Jesus coming forth from the tomb was a glorious portrayal of this promise to that those who believe in Jesus and die will surely live. Jesus conquering death and the grave for us means that we will share in his resurrection life presently and in the future.

# Daily Devos

Presently we get to live and experience the New Birth. In the future the New Birth is fully realized during the resurrection of the dead at the second coming of Christ. At the resurrection our physically bodies will be reunited with our souls to live in his kingdom forever and never taste death again!

How could this not be good news? Death will have no power over those who believe in Jesus because death had no power over Him. All praise and honor belongs to the risen Lord!

In one sentence: Why is the resurrection important?

*“As we remind ourselves that the resurrection is the only answer to the problem of death, we will appreciate its important place in the biblical message of hope to a helpless world. Jesus’ resurrection shouts of that THIS HOPE IS REAL, that we can FULLY TRUST GOD TO RESURRECT US.”*

*-Adrian Warnock, Raised with Christ p. 70.*

# Coming Home

1. What were the greatest lessons you learned during this mission trip?
2. What helped you learn these lessons? (Describe the experience, people, and so forth.)
3. What were the best parts of the overall experience?
4. Comment on the balance of time/emphasis given to work, fellowship, worship, and witnessing.
5. Which tasks were the most fulfilling for you?
6. What would you do differently if you could do this trip over?
7. How would you describe the effect this trip had on your personal:
  - a. Self image?
  - b. Spiritual life?
  - c. Interest in missions/God's overall plan for your life?.
8. Do you plan to maintain contact and pray for any of the people with whom you worked?
9. What application are you going to make as a result of your short-term mission assignment?
10. How has your relationship with Jesus changed because of this trip?

# Pray for Guatemala

Pray for:

Calvary Chapel Antigua will open its doors on March 2, 2012.

The churches and pastors/missionaries that we have visited, that God would be faithful in their lives and ministries.

The schools and outreaches that we took visited and that the Word of God would take root deeply in the hearts of young people.

That Jesus would be glorified in the lives of the Guatemalan people we met and in our lives forever!

Pray that each of our team members was used by God in powerful ways to reach the hearts of young men and women during this trip.



# Resources



## **Psalms Devotionals, Spanish, Simply Jesus and Outreach Ideas**

*But when He saw the multitudes, He was moved with compassion for them,  
because they were weary and scattered, like sheep having no shepherd.*

*Matthew 9:36*

# Devos in Psalms

## Psalm 1 - The Way of the Righteous and the Wicked

1 Blessed is the man who walks not in the counsel of the wicked, nor stands in the way of sinners, nor sits in the seat of scoffers; 2 but his delight is in the law of the Lord, and on his law he meditates day and night. 3 He is like a tree planted by streams of water that yields its fruit in its season, and its leaf does not wither. In all that he does, he prospers. 4 The wicked are not so, but are like chaff that the wind drives away. 5 Therefore the wicked will not stand in the judgment, nor sinners in the congregation of the righteous; 6 for the Lord knows the way of the righteous, but the way of the wicked will perish.

Pray before you read – read and pray this verse Psalm 119:18. Now read through Psalm 1 - 5 times. The first 3 times simply just read the Psalm. Don't stop, underline anything or get distracted – just read it straight through word for word. The 4th time you read it I want you to stop every time a word or phrase sticks out to you – underline or mark it. Then right down your thoughts about that word or phrase. You may spend time going through any scriptures that relate or are linked to that word or phrase. When you have gone through the entire Psalm – then read through the Psalm one more time.

This time answer these questions:

What about this Psalm encourages you?

What about this Psalm troubles you?

What positive actions does this Psalm encourage you to do?

What Negative actions does this Psalm encourage you to avoid?

Now: Pray – Pray this Psalm into your life. Ask the Lord to make you more into His Image and to conform you into a righteous man/woman, by his Holy Spirit – for His Glory. - Amen

# Devos in Psalms

## Psalm 2 – The Reign of the Lord’s Anointed

Read this Psalm through 3 Times. Then read the below section and answer the questions in your Journal.

Like many Psalms, the theme of Psalm 2 is emphasized in the final verse. We can defy God and perish, or surrender to Him and be blessed. The Psalm itself does not identify its author, but Acts 4:25-26 clearly attributes it to David.

1. (1-3) The nations rebel.

a. Why do the nations rage: The Psalmist seems genuinely mystified. The nations have no reason to rage against God, and they have no benefit in raging against Him. Their opposition against God is nothing but a vain thing.

b. The rulers take counsel together: Since the time of Babel, men continue to band themselves together against God. They feel that two or more men united against God have a better chance than one man set against God.

c. Against the Lord and against His Anointed: They oppose both the Lord and His Anointed. Anointed speaks of the Christ, the Anointed One. Since Jesus is the perfect representation of the Father (John 10:30; 14:9) if you oppose God the Father, you oppose Jesus. If you oppose Jesus, you oppose God the Father.

d. Let us break Their bonds in pieces: Those who oppose the Lord and His Anointed think of God as a bondage-bringer. This attitude is evidence of spiritual insanity because God is a bondage-breaker, not a bondage-bringer.

“To a graceless neck the yoke of Christ is intolerable, but to the saved sinner it is easy and light . . . We may judge ourselves by this, do we love that yoke, or do we wish to cast it from us?” (Spurgeon)

In your life write down a time when you have doubted God, had questions about God, or a time when you felt God wasn’t there.

How did God answer you in that difficult time?

What did you learn as you look back on those difficult times in your life?

# Devos in Psalms

2. (4-6) The Lord's laugh from heaven.

a. He who sits in the heavens shall laugh: God looks at the way man plots against Him and He laughs. God isn't afraid or confused or depressed about the opposition of man. God laughs at it.

i. "This derisive laughter of God is the comfort of all those who love righteousness. It is the laughter of the might of holiness; it is the laughter of the strength of love. God does not exult over the sufferings of sinning me. He does hold in derision all the proud boastings and violence of such as seek to prevent His accomplishment of His will." (Morgan)

b. The Lord shall hold them in derision: Through the centuries many have opposed God and His Kingdom in Jesus Christ. Each one of these opponents shall be frustrated and crushed.

i. A famous example of an opponent of Christianity was the Roman Emperor Diocletian (245-313 a.d.). He was such a determined enemy of Christians that he persecuted the church mercilessly, and fancied that he had defeated Christianity. He struck a medal with this inscription: "The name of Christianity being extinguished."

Diocletian also set up two monuments on the frontier of his empire with these inscriptions:

"Diocletian Jovian Maximian Herculeus Caesares Augusti for having extended the Roman Empire in the east and the west and for having extinguished the name of Christians who brought the Republic to ruin Diocletian Jovian Maximian Herculeus Caesares Augusti for having everywhere abolished the superstition of Christ for having extended the worship of the gods"

And yet Diocletian is dead and gone.

c. He shall speak to them in His wrath: God laughs in heaven, but He doesn't remain inactive. He laughs but He doesn't only laugh. Before He acts against defiant man, He first speaks to them.

i. This shows the great mercy of God. He has every reason and every right to simply act against defiant man. Love and mercy compel God to speak a word of warning before He acts.

# Devos in Psalms

Often times people have a hard time thinking of God as a Loving God AND a God of Wrath at the same time. How can God be all loving and Wrathful as well? This may be a result of our lack of understanding the nature of God and/or the bad examples in our culture. Too many times our earthly fathers can misrepresent what a father figure is supposed to be like. They may discipline in anger, be abusive (verbally or physically), or they may not show love at all. In this passage the Lord warns the hearer of His coming wrath – as an act of Love.

What are some warning signs that God will or has given you when you are about to do something against His will?

When you have made a mistake – what have you learned about God's forgiveness? Read I John 1:8-10.

Read Psalm 103 – What do you learn about God's Forgiveness.

3. (7-9) The decree of the Son.

a. I will declare the decree: The following passage indicates that this is the Lord's Anointed Himself speaking. He will declare the decree that God the Father spoke to Him.

b. You are My Son, today I have begotten You: The Lord's Anointed recalls what God the Father spoke to Him, identifying Him as the Son of the Father and emphasizing His standing as begotten of the Father.

i. The writer to the Hebrews quotes this passage in Hebrews 1:5 as evidence of the deity of Jesus and superiority to all angels. He mentions the more excellent name Jesus received, greater than all the angels. This is the "name" Son. While angels are sometimes called the sons of God in a generic sense (Job 1:6), the Father never said "My Son" to any angel in a specific sense. That is reserved for God the Son, the Second Person of the Trinity.

ii. Begotten is also an important idea, as a contrast to created. Jesus was not created; rather He created everything that was created (Colossians 1:16-17). Begotten describes a relationship between two beings of the same essential nature and being, but we create things of a different essential being and nature than ourselves. A man creates a statue but begets a child.

# Devos in Psalms

## 4. (10-12) The decree to the nations about the Son

a. Serve the Lord with fear, and rejoice with trembling: The Psalmist calls the kings of the earth to surrender to God, giving Him proper reverence. In this submitted, surrendered place they can rejoice - yet with appropriate trembling.

b. Kiss the Son: This primarily has in mind the kiss of submission, where a dignitary receives the humble kiss of an inferior. It also hints at the affection God wants in relationship to Him. God wants us to recognize our proper place before Him, but to also rejoice in Him and be affectionate in our relationship.  
i. "Kissing was the token of subjugation and friendship." (Clarke)

ii. If the kings and judges of the earth are commanded to humble themselves before the Lord's Anointed, recognizing His total superiority, then what of the rest of us? Speaking to the kings and judges therefore includes all of humanity.

d. Blessed are all those who put their trust in Him: Those who defy God are broken, but those who depend on Him are blessed. The Psalmist leaves the choice with everyone: Broken or Blessed?

In what areas of your life do find it hard to Trust God? Family? Relationships? School? Finances? Daily Decisions?

What things hinder you from Trusting God in those areas?

Read Hebrews 12:1-2 – How can you practically lay aside those things that hinder you?

# Devos in Psalms

Psalm 3 - A Psalm of David, when he fled from Absalom his son

Save Me, O My God

1 O Lord, how many are my foes! Many are rising against me; 2 many are saying of my soul, there is no salvation for him in God. Selah. 3 But you, O Lord, are a shield about me, my glory, and the lifter of my head. 4 I cried aloud to the Lord, and he answered me from his holy hill. Selah. 5 I lay down and slept; I woke again, for the Lord sustained me. 6 I will not be afraid of many thousands of people who have set themselves against me all around. 7 Arise, O Lord! Save me, O my God! For you strike all my enemies on the cheek; you break the teeth of the wicked. 8 Salvation belongs to the Lord; your blessing be on your people! Selah

Meditate through this Psalm.

First Read 2 Samuel 15 – this is the story surrounding this Psalm.

NOW:

Pray before you read – read and Pray this verse Psalm 119:18. Now Read through Psalm 1 - 4 times. The first 3 times simply just read the Psalm. Don't stop, underline anything or get distracted – just read it straight through word for word. The 4th time you read it I want you to stop every time a word or phrase sticks out to you – underline or mark it. Then right down your thoughts about that word or phrase.

Ask these questions as you read this psalm and answer them:

Why was God allowing David to experience this situation?

What is troubling or challenging about this story?

# Devos in Psalms

What did God show David in this experience through his prayer?

What can we learn from David about How God works in our lives?

How can we apply these lessons in our own life – now and in the future?

# Devos in Psalms

## Psalm 4 - Answer Me When I Call

*1 Answer me when I call, O God of my righteousness! You have given me relief when I was in distress. Be gracious to me and hear my prayer! 2 O men, how long shall my honor be turned into shame? How long will you love vain words and seek after lies? Selah. 3 But know that the Lord has set apart the godly for himself; the Lord hears when I call to him. 4 Be angry, and do not sin; ponder in your own hearts on your beds, and be silent. Selah. 5 Offer right sacrifices, and put your trust in the Lord. 6 There are many who say, "Who will show us some good? Lift up the light of your face upon us, O Lord!" 7 You have put more joy in my heart than they have when their grain and wine abound. 8 In peace I will both lie down and sleep; for you alone, O Lord, make me dwell in safety.*

## Practicing what we preach – Being a Psalm Writer:

For this Psalm – journal your prayers. Write down your actual prayer to the Lord. The Psalms are David's actual prayers to God and the response he received from the Lord. Be specific when writing down your prayers – peoples names, specific things you are praying for about yourself. Here is a helpful guide to journal your prayers:

#1 – Write down what you are thankful for. Write it as if you were praying it – for example "Lord thank you for ....."

#2 – Write down your Praise to God – "God I praise you for who you are, you are my provider, you are my savior, you are my friend.....etc."

#3 – Write down your personal confessions to God – Confessing any sin – "Lord forgive me for ..... (be specific)."

# Devos in Psalms

#4 – Write down your personal prayers for yourself to God – “Lord help me with.....Lord I’m praying for “this in my life” .... Etc.”

#5 – Write down your prayers for the Guatemala team and churches / missionaries we are ministering with.

#6 – Write down your prayers for anyone/thing else on your heart.

#7 – Just be quiet before the Lord in prayer and ask the Lord if there is anything specific he would be speaking to. Be quiet and silent just thinking on the Lord for a few minutes (at least 5 minutes). Write down anything the Lord puts on your heart.

Finally – cover what you have written to Him in prayer.

# Basic Spanish

Yes Si	Sir Señor
Please Por favor	Madam Señora
Thank you Gracias	Miss Señorita
Thank you very much Muchas gracias	See you later Hasta la vista
You're welcome De nada	See you tomorrow Hasta mañana
Excuse me Perdón; Con permiso	Do you speak English? ¿Habla usted inglés?
Just a second Un momento	I speak a little Spanish Hablo un poco español
Okay Está Bien; Muy bien	Do you understand? ¿Comprende usted?
Hello Hola	I understand Yo comprendo
Goodbye Adiós	I don't understand No comprendo
Good morning Buenos días	What did you say? ¿Cómo?
Good afternoon Buenas tardes	How do you say ____ in Spanish? ¿Cómo se dice ____ en español?
Good night, Good evening Buenas noches	Cristo te ama Jesus Loves You!

# Basic Spanish

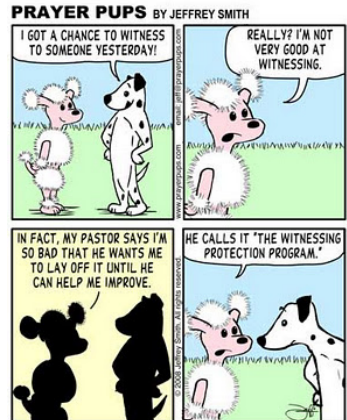
Dios	God
fe	faith
creer	to believe
creencias	beliefs
el alma	the soul
la biblia	the Bible
rezar	to pray
oraciones	prayers
iglesia	church
catedral	cathedral
misa	mass
sacerdote	priest
padre	father
monja	nun
misionarios	missionaries
bautismo	baptism
el cielo	heaven
angeles	angels
santo	saint
espíritu	spirit
el infierno	hell
diablo	devil

JesuCristo es el unico camino a Dios  
Jesus Christ is the only way to God!

Cristo reigna para siempre  
Jesus Christ reigns forever!

Cristo te ama  
Jesus Christ loves you!

Tienes que renacer otra vez  
Ye Must Be Born Again!



WITNESSING IS JUST TELLING OTHERS ABOUT YOUR WALK WITH JESUS. WITNESS TO SOMEONE TODAY!

# Simply Jesus

The Gospel = Jesus:

- Who He is.
- Where He came from.
- What He did.
- Why He did it.
- What do we do about it?

Motions for Jesus

Jesus is God (Son of God). He came from heaven to earth. Lived a perfect life, died on the cross to pay for our sin, then rose from the dead and is in heaven now offering us the free gift of eternal life (or preparing a place for us or and will one day come again).

In the beginning God... What is God like? People have some strange ideas about God. Some are true and some are not. Let's take a look.

Hat Skit

Policeman: Some people think that God is like a policeman. He always out looking for what you've done wrong so he can write you a ticket and throw you in jail. That's not what God is like.

Firehat: Some people think that God is like a fireman, you just call 911 and he'll put out the fires in your life and then go back to the station and leave you alone. That's not what God is like.

Boss: Some people think that God is like the "big Boss in the sky", and they must work, work, work, to get please him and get to heaven. God is not like that. We cannot work our way to heaven.

## Simply Jesus

- 1) Jesús es el hijo de Dios  
Jesus is the Son of God
- 2) Él vino del cielo a la tierra  
He came from heaven to earth
- 3) Vivió una vida perfecta  
Lived a perfect life
- 4) Murió en la cruz para pagar  
por nuestros pecados  
Died on the cross to pay for  
our sins
- 5) Resucitó de la tumba tres  
días después  
Rose from the dead after  
three days
- 6) Está en el cielo ahorita,  
preparando un lugar para  
nosotros  
And is now in heaven,  
preparing a place for us.

# Simply Jesus

**Fairy godfather:** Some people think that God is like a fairy godfather. You just call on him when you want something and he'll wave his magic wand and then 'poof', he's gone.

**A Fool:** Some people think that God is like a fool because he is so slow to anger, patient and longsuffering.. But the Bible tells us that God is not a fool and He will not be mocked. The Bible says that the real fool is "the man who says in his heart that there is no God!"

*Now here are some accurate descriptions of God that we find in the Bible.*

**Doctor:** God is like a doctor. In fact, He is called "The Great Physician," and He is in the business of healing broken hearts and renewing your spirit.

**Train engineer:** God is like a train engineer. He wants to keep your life on track and bring you safely home to the station.

**King:** God is like a king, he is the "King of the Universe" and he wants to be the king of your heart.

**Hen:** God is like a mother hen, who longs to gather us under her wings and care for us.

**Captain:** God is like the captain of a ship who will guide through the storms of life.

**Judge:** God is like a judge. He will one day judge the universe and cast out those who have sinned and not been pardoned by the blood of His son. How will you do in that courtroom?

**Love:** God is love and he has loved us with an everlasting love.

God's Love Motions

- Even the very hairs on your head are numbered... Matt 10:29-31
- My thoughts toward you are countless as the sand on the seashore... Ps. 139:17-18
- I knit you together in your mother's womb... Psalm 139:13
- I have loved you with an everlasting love...Jeremiah 31:3
- God showed his love toward us, in that while we were yet sinners, Christ died for us. Romans 5:8
- For God so loved the world that he gave his one and only son that whoever believes in him will have everlasting life. John 3:16

# Simply Jesus

## Good King

A long time ago in a far off land there was a wise and just King. A king known far and wide for his love and justice. A famine came to the land, but because the King was wise they had stored food for a time such as this. One day his servant came to him and said, "Good King, someone has been stealing our food!" The King was outraged! How could someone do such a thing. He told the servant to go and tell the people, "Whoever is caught stealing food will be punished severely and given 40 lashes." So the servant went and told the people. Just a few weeks later they caught the thief and dragged the thief to the King. "Oh King, the good news is we have caught the thief! The bad news is that it is your mother!" Oh no. What would the King do? He had a problem. You see, he loved his mother very much and if he punished her she would surely die. But, on the other hand if he didn't punish her, he would no longer be seen as a fair and just leader of his people. What would he do? He had a problem.

He made a decision and called his servant. He said, "Get the whip, the punishment will take place." Just as the servant raised the whip, the King said, "But it is not my mother you will punish. He took off his robes and crown and shirt, and bent his back to the whip, and said, I will take the punishment."

And so love and justice were served that day. It reminds me of another story though. Can you think of another who came and took the punishment that we deserved? Jesus came from heaven and took the punishment for our sins. He paid the debt that we owed.

## Coin Illustration:

This coin it reminds me of God. It's shaped like a circle, and a circle had no beginning and no end. God is from everlasting to everlasting, no beginning, no end. It is one coin, yet it has two sides, each side is very different. That's just like God, He is one God with two sides to his nature. One the one hand He loves us and doesn't want to punish us, on the other hand He is just and must punish sin. This coin also isn't worth very much. It reminds me of the good works I do. No matter how much I try, I can't pay the debt I owe because of sin. The price of sin is death and must be paid by a perfect sacrifice. God loved me so much He sent His Son Jesus to pay for my sin so I could be with Him in heaven one day. How do I receive the gift of eternal life God offers? Well, the answer is on the coin. In God we trust. We trust fully on the sacrifice God has provided for us and invite Jesus into our lives as Lord and Savior.

# Simply Jesus

Black Fabric Activity (some ways the Bible describes sin)

The Bible describes sin for us many different ways.

This cloth reminds me of sin, its shiny on one side, it looks beautiful and enticing; but on the other side it is really dull and ugly.

- Sin separates us from God.
- Sin leaves us in darkness, the Bible says “men love darkness rather than light because their deeds are evil.”
- Sin blinds us.
- It stops up our ears.
- It keeps us from speaking words of life.
- It binds us.
- It makes slaves of us.
- It trips us up.

But, worst of all, it brings death. The Bible says, “the wages of sin are death but the gift of God is eternal life.” But God made a way. He sent His only Son Jesus to pay the price of our sins with His precious blood. The Bible says, “... the blood of Jesus Christ His Son cleanses us from all sin.” (I John 1:7)

So Jesus’ blood washes us “white as snow”, and now when God looks down from heaven he no longer sees our sin, but Christ’s righteousness.

So, let’s review.

- Our sins are washed white as snow
- By the blood of Jesus
- Who takes away our sin
- So we can be free

James 1:14,15 tempted and enticed

Isaiah 59:2 your sin has separated you from God

John 3:19 Men love darkness rather than light because their deeds are evil.

Proverbs 5:22 entrapped

Hebrews 12:11 entangled

James 4:14, 15 death, blind

Romans 6:23 wages of sin is death

Ephesians 2:1 you who were dead in your trespasses and sins

Hebrews 9:22 “... without shedding of blood there is no remission (payment for sin).”

I John 1:7 “...and the blood of Jesus Christ cleanses us from all sin.”

John 1:29 “Behold the Lamb of God that takes away the sin of the world.”

# Indoor Games

## A Few Ideas...

*Balloon Tag*  
*Capture the Flag*  
*Charades*  
*Concentration*  
*Down by the Banks*  
*Duck, Duck Goose*  
*Fishbowl*  
*Four Corners*  
*Freeze Tag*  
*Hangman*  
*Heads Up 7 Up*  
*Hide and Go Seek*  
*Hot Potato*  
*I Spy*  
*Leap Frog Races*  
*Mother, May I?*  
*Murder in the Dark*  
*Musical Chairs*  
*Nation Ball*  
*Ninja*  
*Red Light, Green Light*  
*Red Rover*  
*Sharks and Minnows*  
*Simon Says*  
*Steal the Bacon*  
*Tic Tac Toe*  
*Twister*

### *Team Favorites:*

*Action Costumes with Mel Coyne*  
*Card Making with Daniel B. & J.*  
*Do the Ashton Hair Whip*  
*Invent Worship Songs with Jon*  
*Spanish Lessons with Camille Baer*  
*UFC Fighting with Ray Dumas*

## The Farmyard

*One player is selected to become the leader. The leader tells everyone that they are going to whisper to each of them an animal they will imitate once they are given a signal. However, instead of giving every player a name of an animal they will whisper to them to be quiet once the signal is given, with the exception of one player. They will instead tell that one player to imitate the sound of a donkey once the signal is given.*

*Once the signal is given the only person to make a sound will be the donkey, the joke will be on them. This one seems kind of mean, but it was on the kid's website, so...*

## Blind Man's Wand

*This is another way of playing Blind Man's Buff.*

*The player who is blindfolded stands in the center of the room, with a long object like a plastic baseball bat.*

*The other players gather around him in a circle. Someone starts the music, and the players walk around and around the blind man, until suddenly the music stops; the blind man then lowers his wand on one of the players in the circle, and that player grabs the wand.*

# Sharing Your Faith

Many people today reject moral absolutes, are deeply skeptical of religion, and know very little about the Bible. All of that makes evangelism in this new millennium more difficult than before. Often, people won't be willing to listen to the Gospel message until you've first engaged them in spiritual conversations that prepare their hearts and minds to hear it.

Here's how you can use conversations to help people get ready to respond to the Gospel:

View evangelism as a process rather than an event. Sharing your faith is a process that's best done gradually through a series of conversations with people, building trusting relationships with them over time. Evangelism is helping your non-believing friends take one step closer to Christ every day and in every way. Try to make the most of every encounter with your non-believing friends to help them take steps toward Christ.

Pray for more passion. Ask God to give you more passion for lost people so you'll be motivated every day to use your conversations strategically to help them find Christ.

Focus on availability rather than ability. Remember that it's the Holy Spirit who ultimately draws people to Christ. You shouldn't feel the pressure of being responsible for how people respond to the Gospel. Your job is simply to lead them to it and give them opportunities to respond. As you make yourself available to God every day, His Spirit will empower you to speak the truth to others in your conversations.

Be a musician. Listen carefully to what your non-believing friends have to say, and hear the sour notes – things that don't sound right – that they're singing to you. When you hear what people actually believe and detect discrepancies in their viewpoints, you'll know better how to reach them for Christ. So listen well, giving people your full attention when they speak. Eliminate distractions and focus on what they're saying rather than thinking of your response while they're still talking. Make eye contact with them. Reflect back what you think you've heard them say, paraphrasing it to clarify whether or not you truly understand them. Notice the different types of sour notes that people may be singing to you: discrepancies between their worldview and their heart longings, inconsistencies between what they say they believe and how they live, two or more beliefs that are mutually contradictory, and illogical beliefs. When you understand people's perspectives more clearly, you're more likely to engage them in meaningful dialogue.

# Sharing Your Faith

Be an artist. Paint a picture using questions to help your non-believing friends see themselves in a true light. Rather than telling them what they should believe, tactfully ask probing questions in ways that allow them to surface the truth for themselves and evaluate the strength of their beliefs. When they see for themselves the inadequacies and inconsistencies of what they believe, they'll be curious to hear more about Christ. Phrase your questions in non-threatening ways to minimize people's defensiveness. Ask questions that clarify the meaning of unclear terms they're using (for example, if someone says, "I'm a pretty good person so I'm going to get into heaven," you could ask, "What do you mean by 'good'?"). Ask questions that surface uncertainty and expose false beliefs to help people see the cracks in the foundation of their worldview (for example, you could ask, "Do you think that all religious beliefs basically teach the same thing?" and then follow up by asking, "How is it possible for all religions to be the same when some of them contradict each other's key beliefs?"). To avoid overwhelming people with too many questions, pray for the wisdom to know which issues you should focus on.

Be an archaeologist. Dig up people's history to find the real barriers that are standing between them and Christ. People often have unspoken issues that are getting in the way of them coming to faith in Christ. They may have intellectual issues that are keeping them from understanding why Christianity is true; in that case, they need answers from apologetics. They may have emotional issues that are preventing them from considering the truth; in that case, they need you to listen to their concerns, demonstrate compassion, and pray for them. They may have volitional issues in which they simply don't want to consider Christianity because they'd rather run their own lives than let God guide them; in that case, they need love and prayer. Determine whether the questions people are asking are legitimate or a diversion designed to avoid the truth. Uncover the nature of their barriers and the concerns behind their questions. Find out what would motivate them to get answers to their questions about Christ.

Be a builder. Build bridges to the Gospel for people. Find the right balance in your approach between objective evidence (such as evidence for Christ's resurrection) and subjective experience (such as how people see God at work in your own life as a role model to them). Find common ground with the people you're trying to reach, and use those areas you have in common as the basis for meaningful dialogue. Earn the right to be heard. Then build a bridge from a point of shared beliefs toward the Gospel. Build "head bridges" by helping people come to understand the Christian faith better.

# Sharing Your Faith

Build “heart bridges” by showing people how Jesus satisfies the longings of their hearts and helps them realize their hopes. Then look for opportunities to transition from preparing people’s minds and hearts to actually sharing the Gospel message with them.

Deal well with different worldviews. Get to know people’s varying worldviews well, and help them work through worldview issues on their own timetable, not yours. Don’t pressure them to make immediate decisions; that will turn them off. Be patient and keep encouraging them to question for themselves whether or not the foundation of their worldview is adequate. Use these two key questions as measuring sticks: “Is your belief system consistently affirmable?” and “Is your belief system in fact livable?”. Focus your questions on the issues that stand out the most, regularly asking the Holy Spirit for the wisdom to discern what questions to ask and when.

Answer the questions behind the questions. Aim to not only answer people’s stated questions, but also the questions behind the questions they ask you. For each question they ask, consider: “What are the possible questions (or issues) behind each question (or issue) that needs to be addressed?”, “What terms that they use need to be clarified?”, “What truth do I want them to grasp about the question or issue raised?”, and “What questions and illustrations can I use to help them grasp this truth?”. Then do your best to provide solid answers to their questions in ways that build bridges for them to cross to the Gospel. For example, if someone asks you, “Is it true that we’re all going to be judged after this life is over?” he or she may really be asking, “Is God really fair for sending some people to hell?” or “Should God be punishing me even when I do my very best?”. After answering the person’s stated question (“God is just because no person lives up to His standard of right and wrong,” you can add a statement that builds a bridge to the Gospel, such as: “But the good news is that God has provided an answer to our dilemma by sending Jesus ...”.

Always be ready. Be prepared to answer people’s spiritual questions at any time. But beyond that, constantly anticipate people’s questions or objections as well, and be ready to respond to them through your conversations. Use every encounter you have with your non-believing friends to help them take steps closer to Christ.

# Notes

Tikal, Guatemala  
travelblog.org



## Notes

*Now to Him who is able to establish you according to my gospel and the preaching of Jesus Christ, according to the revelation of the mystery kept secret since the world began but now made manifest, and by the prophetic Scriptures made known to all nations, according to the commandment of the everlasting God, for obedience to the faith to God, alone wise, be glory through Jesus Christ forever. Amen.*

*Romans 16:25-27*





















# Guatemala

We love  
because Christ  
first loved us.

