

# COREY'S STORIES

Vol. II

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## OUT WITH THE OLD . . . IN WITH THE NEW . . .

I would like to begin by thanking everyone who has prayed for me and those around me. I am strengthened every day by your support and it has kept us focused on the goals ahead of us.

I have finally arrived in Ecuador after much confusion. I guess that teaches us how to be flexible. Tomorrow, February 1<sup>st</sup>, I start Xtreme Team training. The training takes place right outside of Puyo, Ecuador, for the next three months. I will not have any communication with anyone except my brothers with me in the jungle until the 1<sup>st</sup> of May. Might I add that the training is all in Spanish and we even get chastised if we speak in English.

- Please pray that I will find a national partner during the training that can go with me to the unreached peoples of the Shuar in Southern Ecuador.
- Also pray that the Shuar will allow me and my partner to enter and become a part of their community.

I will tell you all about the training in May, when I reach civilization once again, but until that time, please pray for our safety and our walk with Christ.

I would like to tell you all about everything that happened in Guatemala, but there is just not enough space. Our time there was very beneficial and was a time of transition that was certainly needed. After three months of language training, I was tested at an "Intermediate High" level of Spanish. Though I am not fluent, I have been able to communicate in Spanish and even share my testimony and the plan of salvation with the locals. We made many friends in Guatemala and shared Christ with many. We started a weekly Bible Study that is still in effect today; our teachers have been saturated with the Word, and we held a community-wide showing of The Hope Film, provided by the IMB. The small town of San Juan del Obispo is on the verge of a spiritual awakening.

My mom and dad, Aunt Judy and Uncle Gary, along with Jenny McKinnon visited me in Guatemala right after Christmas, just before I left for Ecuador. They were able to minister, not only to the other missionaries, but to my host family and Parker Hall's host family, by providing a meal and a time of recreation and uniting at their hotel in Antigua. Their hearts were deeply touched by the love that was shown to them. These two families are in the midst of struggles and can use your prayers.



Language School in San Juan del Obispo



Traveling to Village in Ecuador



In Village in Ecuador

God was praised in Guatemala and now He is being praised in Ecuador. Pray that my time here is not used in vain. Thank you for all your prayers. See you in May.

In Christ,  
Corey McCombs

PS from Steve and Tonia

It was such a humbling experience to visit the place our son has called home for the last three months. It was truly a blessing to meet his Guatemalan family, language teachers, and missionary friends. They all affectionately called Corey, "Oso", meaning "bear" in Spanish.

To our knowledge, this is the first group of Journeyman to attend the Language School in San Juan del Obispo, a small town about 15 minutes from Antigua. They have definitely left their mark for the Kingdom

on this little town. We saw evidence of God at work through His willing servants. Even as they studied and struggled to learn a new language, they communicated with words and demonstrated with actions the love of Christ to the people they met. Pray for God to continue His Kingdom work as others come to study at the Language School and to live among the people of San Juan del Obispo. Most of the missionaries have graduated and have moved on to their next assignment of ministry. Please continue to pray for them. Their names are; Parker, Landon, Jim, David, Rachel, Audra, Rocky and Dorothy. Angela will soon be leaving for her next assignment.

I know this is lengthy, but please indulge me the opportunity to testify of God's great mercy and grace while we were in Antigua . . . Parker's "dad" has become a believer and volunteered his home for the weekly Bible Study every Wednesday night.

We spent a day visiting in San Juan del Obispo. We went to the Language School to meet all the teachers and missionaries. Even though Corey's parents weren't home, we got to see where he lived. While there, we visited with Parker's family in their home. Knowing of their commitment to the Lord, we all circled around to pray for this family. Since Parker was fluent in Spanish, we asked him to lead us as we prayed for God's Hand of protection upon this family as they profess Christ to their family and friends. It was a very special time indeed.

That evening, back at the hotel in Antigua, Parker had posted on Facebook that his "dad" had been kidnapped in Antigua. Naturally we were shocked and very concerned. After a couple of hours, Corey was finally able to talk to Parker to find out what had happened.

Luiz had ridden his bicycle to Antigua early that morning. Some men had grabbed him, placed a hood over his head, threw him into a vehicle and took him about 4 hours away to a cornfield in the middle of nowhere. Their plan was to kill him. "For some reason" they looked through his wallet, found his identity, and realized they had the wrong man. "For some reason" they did not kill him, but left him in the cornfield and told him not to move. After a while, he managed to get the hood off only to find that no one was there but him. He hitched a ride back to Antigua, found his bicycle, and returned home that evening, a bit shaken up, and shares his experience with Parker. (This sort of thing happens quite often due to the drug trafficking and crimes associated with it.)

We feel very strongly that the Lord answered our prayers that day. As a small group of believers bowed to pray for this family, God's Mighty Hand of protection was already at work to spare this man's life. We just happen to believe that God has saved this man's life "for some reason".

As Corey says, San Juan del Obispo is on the verge of a spiritual awakening. Please pray for this family to grow in the faith and to stand strong for the Lord in the days ahead. Pray that those who come to "study Spanish" will continue the work already begun.

For Corey, these next three months will be filled with many struggles. Please pray for his physical condition as well as his spiritual condition. The Xtreme Team training is much like an army boot camp, but

in the jungle. He will literally be learning how to survive in the jungle. That will involve eating a lot less and learning how to eat things most of us probably wouldn't even think of eating. He will be learning the ways of the indigenous people groups; how they eat, how they build their huts, how they care for wounds and disease, how they protect themselves, how they travel; he will be immersed in the ways of the jungle. They will also be spending time to prepare themselves spiritually; learning an evangelism method called "storying", being able to tell the story of Jesus "from creation to the cross" in Spanish.

Thank you for praying for Corey. We pray that God will richly bless you. We pray that God will lead you to be a missionary right where you are.

In His Love,  
Steve and Tonia McCombs