

COREY'S STORIES

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Corey has graduated from the Xtreme Team Training after three months in the jungles of Ecuador learning how to survive. Ninety something days later and thirty something pounds lighter, Corey sends this message:

To all my prayer partners,

The prayers you all have lifted up for me have not gone unnoticed and God has used them in Xtreme ways these past three months. For those of you that have been waiting for an update and were wondering if I had gotten lost somewhere in the jungles of Ecuador, you were not far off and your waiting is over. I could not have made it through this testing of faith without you all. I would like to use the rest of this letter to explain the training I have just completed. The training was called Xtreme Team Training and we started February 1st and ended May 1st.

Leaving the big city of Quito, Russ Bare (my supervisor) and I set out to the mountainous jungles in the western parts of Ecuador, where the events in the movie "End of the Spear" took place. When we arrived at our destination close to Puyo, we were welcomed by a nice two story house with all the accommodations of the modern world and I thought, "This won't be so bad", but my mind was quickly changed after meeting our instructor Jeremy Taliaferro, missionary to Peru.

Upon arrival, we had a time of debriefing and introduction with eight wide-eyed young men wanting to become Xtreme alumni. Immediately, the training started and just like any other team, the first days are the time to weed out the men from the boys, starting with a physical test. The test consisted of a 4 mile run, push-ups, sit-ups, and pull-ups, which was pretty tough for a 220 pound boy from Georgia. The following morning, before sunrise, we had packed our bags and were ready for the next test, a 15 mile hike into the jungle to arrive at our dwelling place. Shortly after we began, three of the eight hopefuls threw in the towel, leaving five: Landon Ginn (24) Texas, Edwin (23) and Javier (20) from Ibarra, Ecuador, David (18) from Quito, Ecuador, and me.

The training was very interactive physically. Here are a few things that we were involved in: constructed a house of trees and leaves, slept under a mosquito net, cooked over an open fire, each week we had anywhere from five to ten dollars to live on for five guys, three to four days a week we ran, did push-ups, sit-ups, and pull-ups at 5:30 am, we bathed in the river and drank from the river, dug a latrine, fished, chopped wood, killed ants, killed mosquitoes, worked with the axe and machete, made trails, ate worms, tongues, brains, intestines, chicken feet, bugs, and cow lips.

It was very demanding physically and after three months I have lost more than 30 pounds. We also learned the trade of hammock making, so that those that need support on the mission field can support themselves.

The training was also demanding mentally. Our instructors taught us classes such as: history of the New Testament church, 10 Spiritual Disciplines in the life of a believer, survival classes, medical classes, and the biggest was writing Bible stories in Spanish (we also were required to speak Spanish in our every day conversations). Most of our time was spent in memorizing the stories in Spanish and in practicing the spiritual disciplines of praying, fasting, meditating, worship, silence, solitude, simplicity, servitude, and study.

There was also a spiritual and missions aspect to the training. Our long term goal as Xtremers is to enter a community, village, or tribe, learn their language, work with them, eat with them, share everything with them, and win the right to tell them Bible stories in their own language. During the training, we were sent two by two to find a village to live in and share the stories. My partner, Edwin, and I lived in the village of Chorreras for about 20 days learning their culture and teaching stories. It was an amazing experience and a lot of hard work. We have plans to return to this village, it if is in the will of the Father.

Now that the training is over, we are going to put into practice all that we have learned. Pray that I will have a partner to go with me to Zamora and live with the Shuar. We just had an Xtreme Team reunion in Lima, Peru the 15-18 of May. Pray that

we will now have a time of refreshment and rest. "Thank You" to all that sent me a letter in the jungle. It filled my heart and I miss you all.

***Xtremely,
Corey***

Corey will be returning from the Xtreme Team retreat in Peru to stay in the Zamora area to help with a church plant for awhile before actually going to live in the jungles with a tribe. He will be teaching them how to story and encouraging them in the Lord as they learn to share their faith and minister to their own. Continue to pray for his safety and for a partner to go with him to live with and minister to the Shuar in the coming days. For a few weeks, he will be staying with Rocky and Dorothy Black, missionaries to Zamora, and will have access to internet in their home. Please feel free to contact him by email (scoreymccombs@gmail.com), skype, or facebook. We just celebrated his 24th birthday May 28th. Below is an address you can send a card or package to:

Rocky Black
Correos Central
Provincia de Zamora Chinchipe
Zamora Ecuador South America

Thank you so much for your prayer support. We know God will continue to bless. Here are a few pictures of Corey and friends during their Xtreme Team Training. Check out facebook for more.



Constructing House



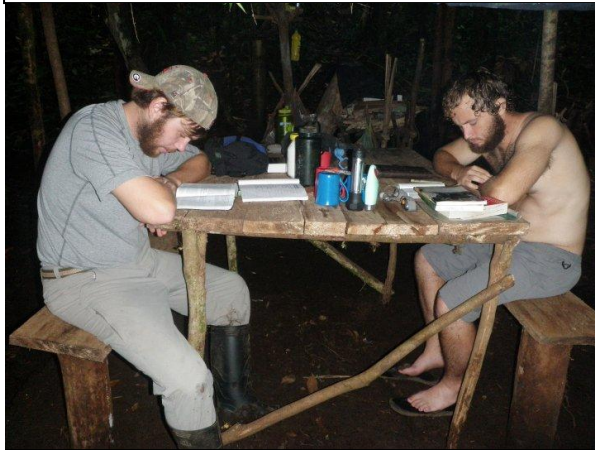
Eating Worms... Yuck!



Cooking at Camp



Our Kitchen Table



Studying Hard



Making a Hammock



Nate Saint's House



Proud Xtreme Team Graduates



Our Camp