



## Notes from Dan and DeAnn

San Antonio Area Campuses

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### How do you practice trusting God?

goes on to say that we should take heart because He has already overcome the world.

So the goal of ECPR was to train up these athletes to be people who would trust God in the good times and the bad in life. Spiritual formation of a deep kind. But how do you even make a dent in that in just ten days? Here's how: First we taught the students five principles intentionally designed to help them break the artificial barrier between the sport they play and their faith. Each day they would learn the principle (One was "Audience of One" which talks about God being the one for whom we compete and therefore He gets to tell us how to compete, how to live, and how to respond. Another is "Victory Beyond Competition" which talks about how to win not just on the field of athletics but in life.) Each teaching was accompanied by a lab—a time to put into practice what was taught while competing.

But it all culminated in the S.P.E.C.I.A.L (which stands for Spiritual Principles plus Exhaustion equals Confidence in Almighty Lord.) A 20 hour competition that is one of the hardest workouts these college athletes have ever been a part of. It was during this "trial" that the students got to practice trusting God in difficult circumstances. It was powerful to see and hear how they would go to truth from Scripture when things got difficult and to see how brothers and sisters in Christ would rally around someone who was losing their own strength to continue.

At the end we were reminded of the sacrifice that Jesus made on our behalf and called to live our lives in a way of holy gratefulness. It was a powerful moment!

Extreme Challenge Puerto Rico (ECPR), the unique blend of training camp and summer mission that I just got back from, tries to answer that question. We all know that we will run into difficult times in life, especially as we live it following Jesus. Jesus himself says, "In this life you will have trouble..." Jesus

One of the interesting things was how some "Not yet" Christians came on the project. We saw at least two of the athletes make decisions for Christ. One of the cool conversations I heard was between a girl from Laticia and a girl from Venezuela. They were helping as interns because they had been there before as participants. One said to the other..."It was so great to worship with you last night. Remember when we were here two years ago and we were wondering if God even existed. And look at us now!"

There was a lot of sharing and evangelism training as well but what stuck out to me was that conversation. God was and is at work and I'm so glad to have witnessed it. Thanks so much for praying! Things could not have gone better!

Thanks you for being a part of what is happening here and abroad in the lives of students. We couldn't do this without you. This month **I wrote a song(!)** about the truths of Scripture that the athletes were repeating during the SPECIAL. It is set to the video from ECPR. Check it out here: [www.dananddeann.com/video](http://www.dananddeann.com/video) The whole family got involved. Fun!