

# JOSHUA'S JOURNAL

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## THOUGHTS OF CONVICTION:

*The meek man is not a human mouse afflicted with his own sense of inferiority. He has accepted God's estimate of his own life: In himself, nothing; In God, everything. He knows that the world will never see him as God sees him, and has stopped caring.*

*-Brennan Manning*

*Nothing sets a person so much out of the devil's reach than humility.*

*-Jonathan Edwards*

*We'd like to be humble, but what if no one notices?*

*-John Orteberg*

*God resists the proud, but gives grace to the humble.*

*-The Bible*

*God is not proud...He will have us even though we have shown that we prefer everything else to Him.*

*-C.S. Lewis*

*The only hope of a decreasing self, is an increasing Christ.*

*-F.B. Meyer*

**For the earth shall be filled with the knowledge of the glory of the Lord, as the waters cover the sea. -Habakkuk 2:14**

## LIFE IS MESSY

Oh if we rightly knew how desperate our need for a Savior is, how our lives would be postured differently. One of the lessons the leadership told the 400 STINTers at the sending conference in August before we left the country: "You need the gospel to be true in your own life just as much as anyone you minister to." It seems these words were prophetic for our team. This is a tough thing to type out and share, but it's too significant to not mention cause life is very different now.

Towards the later half of last semester, the two girls on our team had entered into some conflict with one another, and were having a challenging time resolving their issues. I was not directly involved in any of the conflict or any of the resolution process and honestly had a good semester with both. However, it was the elephant in the room knowing things weren't good between the team as a whole. Both of the girls are not returning to Mexico for the remainder of the STINT year.

Currently, the team will consist of myself and a family of five. Paul Scheele and myself will be doing ministry together and embrace the challenges and changes we're facing side by side. This was quite an eye opening experience. It was eerie to see the Enemy take this foothold from within & see first-hand the destruction.

So we have entered into this semester with a big change and will be doing things very differently with half of the resources. It is interesting to me how God has designed us to grow as people in relationship with Him and in

relationship with one another, and how much of the abundant life is experienced with each other. And yet how destructive and how much sin manifests itself in relationship with one another. The church is Plan A, and there really is no Plan B. To be able to forgive the way He has forgiven is so difficult, yet it is paramount to knowing the life He designed. May God grant the grace for us as believers in Him to grow and further His kingdom as we love and live the gospel. Pray for our whole team.

## CHRISTMAS BREAK

I was blessed to enjoy nearly a month of time with friends and family over the Christmas break. It was so refreshing to enjoy the fellowship and foods I missed so much from home. December 31-January 9, I was in Denver, CO as part of the annual Denver Christmas Conference (see attached newsletter) recruiting students to Mexico for Spring Breaks, summers, and STINT opportunities. Lots of cool things happened so be sure to check out the regional newsletter reporting of some of the Lord's work. My family came out to Denver and got to experience the conference I've been a part of for 4 years in a row now. It was a lot of fun! **Below: Me and nephew #3, Isaac, on Christmas.**

