

It's hard to believe that my time leading the summer project to El Salvador has come to a close. Natalie and I invested so much time, effort, and prayer into a six-week adventure. Our team experienced many surprises, and loads of God's grace. A great example is the countless times we were taken care of by our Salvadorian friends; everything from making sure we knew how to get places to helping us decode the Evanjelica and Matias campuses. I will always be marked by their endless willingness to extend hospitality and a heart-felt welcome. It is unfortunate that most Americans associate violence with El Salvador because of the gang problem, when the majority of the people are so beautiful. I have seen how Salvadorian culture reflects parts of God's character - gentle, patient, and observant. Their quality of life is staked upon relationships, not accomplishment, which is reflected in the slower pace of life. As I return to the states, the hardest transition is embracing the truth that my relationship with Christ is most precious, not my performance for God. I'm realizing that I have much to still learn from my time in El Salvador. Please pray that **God grants me, and the rest of the team, the grace to unpack everything that we learned in those short six weeks.** But this may not be the end of my involvement with El Salvador. My team leader, Jamey, has asked me to help with coaching our STINT team in El Salvador, which means I would be going back for a week sometime this year. Flip over to the back for more details about the actual ministry we did on campus.

New Beginnings this Fall

In a few weeks, we'll begin a new year of ministry at Cal Poly. This fall we are forced to change our outreach strategy. But, we are seeing how a closed door is leading us to another path which we pray will be more effective in the long-term. Tuesday, Sept. 4th we will begin planning with our staff team and student leaders. **Pray for unity of mind, heart, and spirit as we seek God's desires for these new beginnings.** More details on the back about our new strategy this fall.



Left: Natalie and I with Manuel and Cecy, Salvadorian campus staff

Right: on Matias, the most influential campus in the country



August 30, 2012



MATT WILLIAMS SERVING
WITH CRU & AIA

I daily spend myself for God's kingdom by winning students to Christ, building them in their faith, and sending them as kingdom laborers.

"PRAYER IS THE GREATER WORK."

- Thankful for God's protection and provision in San Salvador
- Salvadorian students to trust God fully, take leadership, and move forward
- Wisdom in how to empower athletes to reach teammates
- Continued trust and rest in Jesus with all areas of my life

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Giving every student the opportunity to hear the *good news* of Jesus Christ.



Beautiful view from our hotel



Teaching about the Holy Spirit



Learning how to make papusas



Praying for Layo and Luchi, national directors of Cru in El Salvador

EL SALVADOR CONTINUED...

When most people hear that I went on a mission trip to Central America, they ask if we were building houses or working at an orphanage. Well, we were doing a ministry that is rarely done in other countries. Monday through Thursday our team spent the mornings on one of two university campuses, Evangelica or Matias. We were there to share our faith, disciple believers, and help lead Bible studies. Our hope and prayer is that from our labor we would see future leaders impacted with the good news of Jesus, thus impacting the entire country for decades to come. But we added one twist to our five weeks of campus ministry. We decided to pair our American students with a Salvadorian student who was already involved with Vida Estudiantil (what Cru is called in most Latin American countries). As our time concluded, we found this was our best decision all summer. Because the culture is so relational, many Salvadorian students told us they felt incredibly loved and cared for by their American friends. Also, they were more motivated to pour out their lives into their classmates because we didn't give them tasks, but showed them how authentic relationships can deeply impact people. Oh, how I **pray that this movement would grow in Christ-likeness by living God's relational heart to see men and women redeemed back into relationship with the Father.**

Freshman Welcome Week

Cal Poly has reworked their freshman welcome week, happening Sept. 12th to 17th. What this means is our staff team has to rethink the way we reach out to freshman. Every fall our focus and prayer is to saturate the freshman class with the gospel. A few doors have opened for us to work with the university by providing on-campus activities during the week. We are blessed with lots of student leaders in our movement who are willing to give their time to welcome the freshman. In addition, we'll be on campus during the first two weeks of school with spiritual interest surveys and free stuff. I ask you to pray for our almost 100 **student leaders who are trusting God to start a men's and women's Bible study in every dorm on campus.** *They need hope in the Spirit's power, incredible courage, and wisdom beyond their years.*

Believing with you,

Matt

**5 YEARS
OF SERVICE!**

This month marks five years of serving Jesus with Cru - Campus Crusade for Christ. God has taken me many places in the past five years: Slovakia for a year, back home to Columbia for a year, beautiful San Luis Obispo, California for the past three years; and other places for shorter periods: South Korea, Colorado, East Asia, Los Angeles, and El Salvador. *All of it for the purpose of growing in my desire to live and proclaim the goodness of Jesus.* Thank you for coming alongside me by praying, giving, and believing with me. I look forward to the next five years in partnership together!