

August 2024

Shoulder 2 Shoulder Ministries • Guatemala

Learning to Sabbath

I sit here writing this while listening to the kids play joyfully outside (we didn't have school today). We do not have snow days here, but we do have "wreck days," "landfill fire days," and "landslide days"... just to name a few. Today is a "wreck day." As we left for school, we sat outside our community for over ten minutes without moving an inch. People were getting off their bus and walking to the next stop past the wreck. Cars were put into park and at a standstill. After sitting there for a while, we decided to put our car in reverse, turn around, and spend the day at home.

We are not sure where time has gone. How have we lived here for almost seven months? It is funny because everyone who knows us here says they feel like they've known us for years. We have been very busy, very involved, and very immersed. Mavy goes to school five days a week and the older two go to school four days a week. Caleb and I work with language helpers three to four days a week, are involved in ministry one to two times a week, and have church on Sundays.

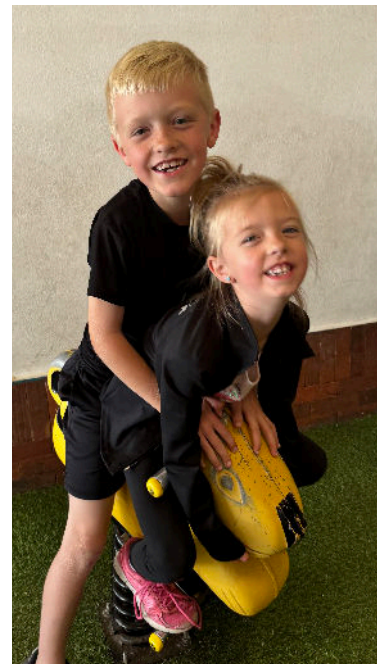
Before we moved, we had every intention of having a Sabbath day weekly. We scheduled it, planned for it, and intended to honor it. In the beginning, we were good at keeping this day as Sabbath rest, but as time went on, we let the busyness of life consume us. We find moments of rest, but they tend to be moments in time that we call Sabbath to make ourselves feel better that we took one. Please continue to pray for us as we pursue this goal!

Transitions



Traffic here is one-of-a-kind. We share with people how insane it can be, but you cannot truly grasp it until you experience it for yourself. We say that it is just a part of our schedule. We literally schedule traffic in. However, the tricky part is, you never know when it is going to be bad. Sometimes, you can plan for it, but days like today, you can't. We laugh when we think about traffic, because it forces us to have Sabbaths. Every other Saturday, we volunteer at a ministry, but the opposite Saturdays, traffic keeps us at home. God likes to force us to rest by having traffic at a standstill in front of our house and causing us to have to turn around. We walked by our entrance a few times today to see if traffic had cleared. It hadn't. But why did we feel the need to be on the go? Why can't we be okay with the forced Sabbath that God has provided for us? Praise the Lord for Sabbath, even forced Sabbath.

THE COX FAMILY



Transitioning to Guatemala has not been easy. It has been an amazing experience, wonderful, fun, and fruitful. However, we are tired. Learning a language hasn't been easy for us. Decisions we have to pray about and make are all-consuming. When bedtime is near, we are all ready. This reminds us of a story of Elijah in 1 Kings 19. Elijah found out that Jezebel had vowed to kill him; he was under a lot of stress. He went up against hundreds of Baal prophets without fear and He trusted God during that time, but when Jezebel vowed to kill him, Elijah cried out to God. He begged God to take him now. He was on the go, go, go and went all out for God constantly. Then, something that may seem so minor to us broke him. But what did God do? He made him rest. A lot. He slept so hard that an angel had to wake him up to make him eat and then he fell back to sleep.



There are times when something minor breaks us. When we feel defeated and like we can't take another step. But, like today, God gives us the opportunity to rest. Sometimes, He has to force us and we simply have to accept it and do it. Things are starting to stabilize, and we are gaining a rhythm. We are learning to set boundaries, and we are truly understanding why God desires us to rest. God is so gracious and, like Elijah, He is giving us time to rest, and we are learning to take those opportunities.



Life Updates

We are buying another vehicle! There have been too many circumstances that we have been needed in two different places at once. For example, today, I (Jess) was asked to help teach at a ministry, but I had to turn it down because the kids had another obligation at the same time at church. On Wednesday, we were going to have to pull the kids out of school early because Caleb needed to be in the complete opposite direction at the same time that the kids got out of school. Instead, we had some friends of ours pick the kids and me up, and we stayed the night at their house.

However, even though it was a really nice time and we were all so grateful for their help, it would have been easier to have a second vehicle so I could take the kids home to their beds for a school night. Fortunately, we were able to withdraw the money out of our ministry fund to buy a vehicle now, but we would like to replace those funds. We have a lot of exciting updates to share soon, but we do need to replenish our ministry fund. Would you please consider helping us replace the \$7,000?

You can scan the QR code below and that will take you to our site. Thank you!!

Praises:

- We have full-funding for the vehicle we are purchasing.
- The kids are loving school.
- God is showing us clear direction, we are just waiting on the timing.



Prayers:

- That we are able to raise the funds to replace what we pulled out for a vehicle.
- The kids to start getting along better and listening.
- Direction/Discernment

Love, The Cox Family (Caleb, Jess, Naam, Taylyss, Maverick)

Stand With

If you are interested in knowing more about our ministry and how you can stand Shoulder 2 Shoulder with us, please contact us at: jess.c@cornerstoneinternational.org or caleb.c@cornerstoneinternational.org. We would love to meet up and fellowship together.

To give online: www.cornerstoneinternational.org/cox (Scan the QR code)

To give via check:

Make check out to Cornerstone International,
mail to PO Box 192 Wilmore, KY 40390.

Memo: Shoulder 2 Shoulder

...They will all worship Me together, shoulder to shoulder, as one people.

Zephaniah 3:9 (ERV)