

October 2024

# Laura Allen • TCK Care

## Adventures in Guatemala

Dear Friends,

Greetings from Tennessee. I pray that you are well and enjoying the lingering summer-like days as we officially welcome fall. I'm looking forward to the changing colors of the fall season.

I recently sent out an email sharing my adventures in Ecuador back in March...well it didn't stop there. In mid-June I made a trip to Guatemala and stayed four weeks visiting with our missionaries and working on improving my Spanish language skills. I'd love to share with you some of what I experienced from my time there. God truly blessed my trip.

One of my goals as a TCK Caregiver is to visit our families in their countries of service. It was truly an honor to visit the Sanchez, Cox, and Beyer families while experiencing their lives and ministries first hand.

### Sanchez Family

I got a glimpse of the vision Kevin and Lauren Sanchez have for the city where they live as they serve through offering an after-school program for the children in the area. I had opportunities to help in the English classes on several afternoons. It was fun to be present when they hosted a big 4th of July celebration at their school. They invited the town to come experience an American holiday and over 200 people showed up for free food, games, prizes, music, and more.

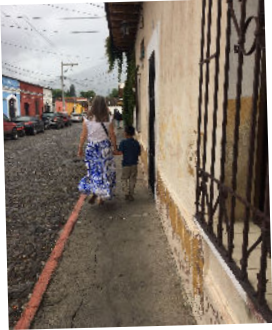
### Cox Family

I had worked closely with the Cox family in their pre-field preparation before their move to Guatemala. It was exciting to see how well they were doing after six months: settling into their new home, immersing in language learning, and figuring out how to do life and family in a foreign country. I was able to experience first hand where they live and participate in their daily lives as they figure out how to navigate traffic, where to shop, where to attend church, how to educate their three young children, and where God is leading them in ministry. Transitioning to a new country is not for the faint of heart, and I am so proud of how well they are facing all their many daily challenges with God's guidance, grace for themselves, and positive attitudes.



## Beyer Clan

I did daily life with the Beyer clan for two weeks helping with the care of Kristin's two foster boys as well as assisting in a village learning center called CEIVA that Kristin started for marginalized children of the small town where they live. Kristin's parents, Dale and Anita, work closely with Kristin in caring for the boys as well as helping at the school and ministering to families and couples in their church. The dedication, hard work, and sacrifice of this family was very evident in the time I was with them, and I left grateful for the opportunity to participate in their lives and ministry.



## CI Ladies' Retreat

A highlight of my trip was participating in a retreat for Cornerstone International's missionary women. Guatemala was chosen for the place to host the retreat since so many of our families live in Central and South America. Fourteen women from five countries came together for five days of fellowship, prayer, worship, teaching, rest, and renewal. Sweet bonding took place as women ministered to one another and heard each other's stories. Annamarie, CI President Hal Hamilton's wife, used her skills as a counselor to direct us in the theme of *Abiding in Christ*. Guided art sessions using water colors also helped us experience renewal through a creative activity.



## Language Learning

One of the reasons I went to Guatemala for a whole month was to have an opportunity to focus on learning Spanish. I hired two separate language teachers and had two-hour sessions each weekday morning for three weeks. (Left pic: me with one of my language tutors). I thoroughly enjoyed my sessions and felt I made some progress, though I also realized how far I have to go before I can comfortably carry on a conversation. We have six CI families who are bi-lingual and I would like to communicate with them in their heart language.



My heart was full when I left Guatemala. I felt God exceeded my expectations with the sweet fellowship and bonding that I experienced with the missionary families. I left with a greater commitment to support them in their callings as well as a deeper level of friendship forged through walking with them in their daily lives.

I am so grateful for your faithful partnership with me through prayers, friendship, and financial support. I could not do what I do without you! May God richly bless you.

## Support

Gratefully Yours, *Laura*

To stand with Laura Allen financially, you can give online at [cornerstoneinternational.org/allen](https://cornerstoneinternational.org/allen) or make your check out to Cornerstone Int'l, memo **Allen • TCK Care**, & mail to PO Box 192 Wilmore, KY 40390

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