



December 2024

Shoulder 2 Shoulder Ministries • Guatemala

THE COX FAMILY

God Always Has a Plan

As the year is coming to an end, we love to reflect on the time that has passed. February 5th was the day we moved to Guatemala. We have spent many hours language-learning, embracing cultural acquisition, changing lanes in ministry as God led us, making new friends, celebrating birthdays, grieving a death, and attending several weddings.

This year, we learned how to be more patient, humble, studious, flexible, and forgiving. The year itself has been a roller coaster ride. There have been many highs along with many lows. However, we are thankful for both. Throughout the process, we have been able to tune in even deeper to hear His still, small voice.



God's hand has held our hand every step of the way. There have been times we would cry out and ask God if He was still there, if He even cared that we were hurting. But He does and always has a plan. Sometimes we just have to be patient. I chuckle when I think about what Mary must have been thinking when she found out that she had to travel to Bethlehem at nine months pregnant. Can you even imagine? I can hear the conversation she and Joseph had on their journey. "You better be praying that there is a comfortable place to lie down when we get there." Then, when they arrived, that "comfortable place" was in a barn. And on top of that, when Jesus was born, He was placed in a manger.

If you think about that at surface level, you are probably asking yourself what it all means. We know the birth story of Jesus. However, I started to do some research because I asked the same question. "What is the significance of literally being born in a barn and having your bed in a manger? What was God's plan?" There are many doctrines on this, but some that resonated with me symbolized Jesus' humble beginning. Also, animals go to the manger (trough) for physical food. Jesus laying in the manger represented that we can go to Him for spiritual food. He is the Bread of Life. This circles back. God always has a plan. And that plan starts before you are even born.

When you reach a time that feels like God isn't listening to your prayers, things look different than you expected, or you feel alone, know that He is always listening to your prayers. He has the perfect plan and He is always there. He loves you unconditionally. John 3:16, "For God so loved the world, that He gave His one and only son and that whosoever believes in Him, shall not perish, but have everlasting life."



What Is The Next Year Going To Look Like For Us?



Next year is going to be a busy year. The Guatemalan school schedule runs January to October, so the kids are going to be restarting 3rd grade, 1st grade, and Pre-K. We have already introduced them to their grades starting back in July, so as they transition to the new school they can focus more on learning Spanish than on how to do some of the coursework. They are really excited for this new chapter and are excited to make friends closer to home.

Caleb and I will continue to have a language tutor to help us grow in Spanish. We have made much progress this past year and can understand a good amount, but speaking is still not as fluent as we would like it. We will also be lesson planning for the new bilingual Christian school and Skilled Trades Program opening up January of 2026, setting up the

workshop and classrooms, assisting with the after-school English program at the Academy, and working alongside Champions in Action every other Saturday at their soccer leagues.

Through all the busyness, we are going to gain a better daily rhythm. We are going to schedule Sabbath rests and we are going to stick with it, no matter what. This year has taught us the importance of Sabbath. We had learned it, studied it, understood it in years past, but we lost it in our priorities and we are excited to bring it back into our routine.

A Call to Help

Would you pray about giving an end of the year gift? With starting a Skilled Trades Program and bilingual school, we are in need of single gifts. This will help cover the costs of materials: books, tools (big and small), curriculum, school supplies, paper, ink, desks, chairs, etc. Unfortunately, we cannot receive shipments of items from the States, so we have to buy everything used or new here. If you feel called to help in any way, you can scan the QR code at the bottom of the page. Thank you!

Thank You!

From the bottom of our hearts, thank you for all your support this year. Whether it was prayerfully, financially, spiritually, mentally, or physically, THANK YOU!!! We feel so blessed to be called to continue to do the work of the Lord. We are called to be His hands and feet, and we are so thankful to have you a part of our team.

We pray that each of you have a Merry Christmas and a very blessed New Year!



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

Stand With Us

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@cimissions.org or caleb.c@cimissions.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)