



April 2025

## Shoulder 2 Shoulder Ministries • Guatemala



*The alfombra (carpet) that leads to the "shrine."*

He is **ALIVE!**

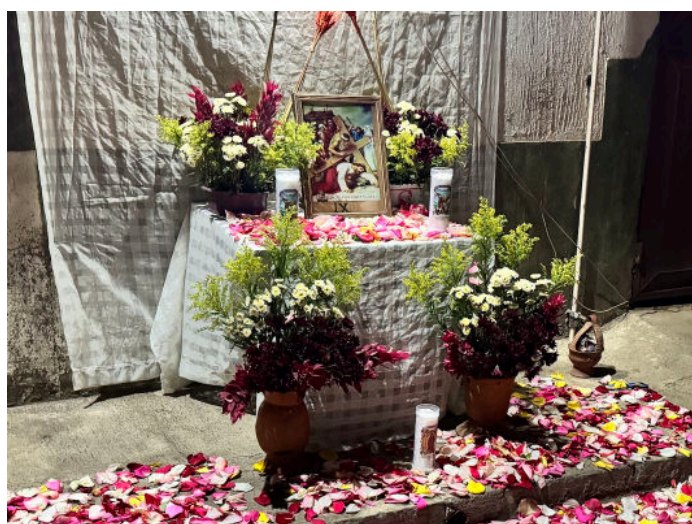
Weeks before Easter, locals in Guatemala start participating in processions, very somber parades. Sad music is played, people have cloths over their heads in mourning, candles are lit in remembrance of Jesus' death, and people spend hours upon hours creating *alfombras* (carpets) which will be trampled in seconds. The cultural aspect is an incredible experience, but it is so sad to witness. Just this past week, we were invited by our neighbors to help them set up and then stay for the procession that walked right past our house. Minutes before the procession rounded the corner, the family set up a table, lit candles, burnt incense, set up a picture of Jesus falling while carrying His cross to Calvary, and laid a flower petal *alfombra* (carpet) that created a pathway to the "shrine." When I asked our neighbor why they did this, she told me that it connected them closer to Christ. When the procession entered, the family surrounded the table and the crowd turned the shoulder-carried float to face the "shrine." They sang a song, repeated a blessing, said a prayer, and then removed the picture. Then they proceeded to the next house that had a "shrine" displayed.

*Matthew 28:6 - "He is not here: for He is risen, as He said. Come, see the place where the Lord lay."*

While watching the ceremony, I prayed for each of their hearts that one day, they would realize that we don't need to mourn. HE IS ALIVE! In Guatemala, there are processions after processions for weeks remembering Jesus being crucified and dying for us. BUT what they don't celebrate is the fact that three days later, He is RISEN! He is ALIVE and lives in us. On Resurrection Sunday, the streets are quiet. There are no celebrations, only minor parades, and hardly anyone goes out. Could you pray with us that we can be a light to the community and share with them that Easter is a time of celebration, not mourning?

John 11:25-26 - "I am the resurrection and the life. Whoever believes in Me, though he dies, yet shall he live, and everyone who lives and believes in Me shall never die."

Do you believe this?



*Our neighbor's "shrine."*



## Life and Ministry Updates

English conversations have been picking up. Every week, we have more kids who want to join, which is a great problem to have! We need more volunteers. If you are interested, we are looking for more people who would like to volunteer 30-60 minutes of their time weekly to have English conversations with students. You do not need to know Spanish to participate. This is a great way to start building relationships with students.

Caleb had the opportunity to teach his first mechanics introduction class to the Year Five students. He is such a natural. God is going to use the skills He gave Caleb for so much good. He has the ramps completely made for the shop and is continuing to buy or make the tools he needs to completely outfit the shop along with developing the curriculum he's going to use next year.



*Caleb teaching the students how to check oil in the car.*



*Naam helping a team translate.*

We hosted a medical missions team at the shop and academy.

They had general doctors, a pediatrician, a dentist, and a pharmacy all 100% free of charge. Unfortunately, a lot of people go without medical care because they can't afford it. On the day of the clinic, the team saw over 100 people. We enjoyed engaging with the public, meeting more neighbors, holding babies, and building relationships and trust. It was such a blessing to be a witness to the community. Naam even tried translating a little bit. Although he struggled some, we are so proud that he stepped out of his comfort zone and tried.

We are still actively working on curriculum for the Christian Bilingual School, seeking prospective teachers, discussing all the

logistics that come with starting a school, and so forth. We are still on track to open January 2026!

The kids are growing like weeds. We just received their report cards and all three are doing superb; especially with the school being primarily in their second language. We try to be a presence in the community. We spend time with our neighbors, go to the park, and walk around the town. Our goal is to build relationships with them, hear their stories, and share about the God who loves them so much! Would you pray that God would help open the doors for these types of opportunities as well as close the language barrier gap?

As always, we thank you for your ongoing support. God is moving in Guatemala and we are so thankful He has called us to be His hands and feet. However, we could not fulfill His callings without your prayer and financial support! Thank you for being obedient!

We are still praying for people to come alongside us to help meet our \$700/month and about \$3500 in one time gift goals. This will help finish outfitting the shop and offset the monthly costs of having a Skilled Trades Program and Christian Bilingual school.

God Bless you all!

Love and Blessings,

The Cox Fam (Caleb, Jess, Naam, Taylyss, Maverick)



*Jess assisting a mom who has 15 month old twins. She weighed less than 10 pounds.*

## 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](mailto:jess.c@cimissions.org) or [caleb.c@cimissions.org](mailto:caleb.c@cimissions.org). We would love to meet up and fellowship together.

To give online: [www.cornerstoneinternational.org/cox](http://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)