



COLUMBIA MISSION UPDATE

Corey and Tona Kautz have been missionaries to Colombia since 2006. Their focus is reaching at-risk children and youth throughout the city by equipping church leaders.

**MAY 28, 2017
BGMC SUNDAY!**

We're excited for 2017. Along with continuing our current ministries, we will be mentoring and training at least 16 leaders as children's ministry pastors. We will be helping churches identify and create the profile of a children's pastor, spend the year mentoring and training those people for existing churches and new church plants, thus providing ministry for the whole family.

I see that this year will be different. I see young people getting tired of the "same old thing" and wanting to experience the presence of God more. We had a past weekend of P's – Passion, Prayer, Power. A group of kids gave up their Saturday and food to spend in prayer. Perhaps they were going through a rough time and needed to reset and recharge. All seemed to be dealing with chaos in their lives and they were just trying to stay afloat and make it through. We sang and prayed and sang some more. Many tears were shed, many hurts and needs spoken and prayed for. It was a breath

of fresh air. Everyone left that night with new energy and a new attitude. But you can't just

breathe once and expect to live forever. You have to keep being recharged in God's presence.

Why do missionaries need prayer? How many hours are spent in government offices, waiting in lines, producing documents upon documents, etc. Along with our weekly ministries, months were spent trying to get our residency visas. It's like asking ten people for directions and each one has a different answer. We try to be diligent and do everything according to instruction. Every time we have to change to a new person we get a different answer: "You have to come back later." We go back later and they say, "You should have come sooner." Maggie and I had to leave the country for a few days and return to Colombia on a tourist visa until our residency visa application was processed. It did give time for Maggie and me to have mother/daughter time upon her high school graduation, a non-traditional graduation as she had classes on line.

We have entered the empty nest phase. Alex is in his third year at Southeastern University in Lakeland, Florida and Maggie is in her first year at Southwestern Assemblies of God University in Waxahachie, Texas. Alex is studying film production and Maggie is studying criminal justice. We miss them tremendously. Some have asked if raising money for college is part of our budget. The answer is no. We have the same budget and are constantly trying to find scholarships and grants.

Thanks for all your support – prayer & finances.

~ Corey & Tona Kautz

NICARAGUA CHALLENGES

Why me? Why not him? Over the last 6 years in Nicaragua, many times I have asked myself this question. Why me? Why not them? Why was I born into a loving Christian home with all my needs provided for as a child? Why was I raised up in the ways of the Lord and inspired to dream big? More importantly... why not him?

As part of our Engage My Life Nicaragua Team, we entered into the dump to minister to the people a few weeks ago, I found one of my little friends asleep under some cardboard. I lifted up the cardboard to awaken him and see if he wanted to play. Anthony and I have played several times together and his smile is infectious when he's happy and can forget about his sadness and hunger. The joy in sharing the love and hope of Christ with him and all the other children in the dump breathes life through me.



However, this time was different . . . very different. When I lifted the cardboard I saw a large open wound on his head. I woke him from his sleep and came to realize he had fallen and injured his head 3 days earlier, falling from the back of a garbage truck. There he laid for 3 days. Why?? I asked myself. . . Why???

I picked my little buddy up and cleaned his wounds, then went in search of his mother with some of our ENGAGE girls. When we arrived at their shack, we found an 11 year old girl who is the oldest of 7 kids. I asked where her mom was and she said she has been gone for 3 days and never came back. I proceeded to ask why no one went searching for her little brother who had been hurt in the dump. Then at that moment, I'll never forget what

happened.... she was silent. She looked at me,

then looked at the 6 month old in her arms, then looked down at the 18 month old clinging to her leg while the 3 year old was crying at her feet. She was speechless, and so was I. She just simply couldn't do it. 6 siblings to care for and only a few grains of rice in a bag. Why?

Day in and day out we live here amongst the people, but that does not make it any easier to process the extreme poverty, constant devastation and tragedy that the people we know and call by name have to face on a daily basis.

It can be easy to get caught up in thinking about the problem and looking for answers instead of focusing on the solution. There is one answer. There is one solution and it is JESUS! He is enough for me and He is enough for the hungry, the hopeless, the weary and the broken.

Give thanks to God for the life He has given you! May you use the life He has granted you to share His love and hope with those in need all around you!

Thank you to each of you who were part of this day with us. May you never be the same and may Antony's little life change and shape the way in which you passionately pursue Christ and share His hope with those in need. Always remembering that Jesus is the answer.

~ Ken & Kendra Douth

JERUSALEM DAY

May 24th is the 50-year Jubilee anniversary of Jerusalem's reunification. For more than two thousand years — since biblical times — Jerusalem has been conquered, oppressed, and divided. But in 1967 the divided city was reunited, and Jerusalem became, in the

immortalized words of Yitzhak Shamir, “the eternal capital of Israel forever.”

“Jerusalem Day” is a national religious celebration in Israel; because, as the city was reunited, access to the Western Wall, the holiest place of prayer for Jewish people, was also restored to Israel.

“But now I have chosen Jerusalem as the place for my name to be honored...” 2 Chronicles 6:6