

God Shows Up Daily

Antigua, Guatemala

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By Joseph Nerad

My Story

When I was in my early 20's, I was going to a Baptist church and they had a revival for several nights in a row with different speakers each night. One night after the service, I "heard" someone say, "I'm calling you to be a missionary!" I actually got up to see who was speaking to me...God was so real. With validation from the pastor and others in the church, I started plans of going to seminary, but the world got in the way for the next 20+ years.

God, through my sister, got me to go back to church with her. I started attending Calvary Chapel St. Petersburg, FL (CCSP) and my passion for the mission field was now rekindled. In 2007, a building team was going to Africa so I went to the interest meeting. I told my sister after that meeting, "I'm going to Africa!" but I did have to learn that just because I want something, it has to be God's plan, not mine. God did want me to go and every time money was due, it was in my account that day-the exact amount.

God showed me so much on that trip – while I was the sickest I've ever been, we got things done. He brought materials together that shouldn't have been there and protected us the entire time in an oppressive situation.

From that point forward, I knew I needed to pursue this call and with the counsel of godly men like Pastor Vivian Laird, I went to Bible School in Hungary for one semester. Due to funding, I had to come home. I was unsure what to do next but I stayed

faithful...being a part of various work teams and missions groups to pray for and help others already on the field.

In 2012, God moved me to start a group of those "waiting" to go. We discussed many valuable biblical principles specific to what we were experiencing and I had the privilege of seeing several of the group go out on the field, learning each step of the way to stay in relationship with God.

In early 2013, God put me on a work team going to the new CCSP & Potter's Field Ministries Center in Antigua, Guatemala. I enjoyed the work but hadn't really thought long term. In June, God offered me the opportunity to go to work at the Center for a 5-month extended trip to finish work on the property. I really wanted to seek the Lord's face on this. This seemed too easy – surrounded by ministry students and on a beautiful property. God confirmed the call through the book of Haggai (I encourage you to read it.) Through other wonderful circumstances, I've been asked to come back full time for the next two years to oversee maintenance and assist teams that come in to work. In mid-January, I will be returning to Antigua to not only work, but with a renewed passion in my heart. (*See Next Steps*)

The Tent!



About five weeks prior to the Pastors' Conference I was told they wanted to construct a tent that would seat 300 people. I prayed for guidance and spiritual help. (We were also working on the renovations of the shed and turning it into a dorm for about 20 people to sleep.) Two days later, we broke ground and started leveling and building form boards for the slab.



On Monday morning, with the help of a team from California we started mixing concrete by hand. (The slab area would need to be 50' x 50'.) By the end the day, we'd poured a 10' by 25' area. Tuesday, we started immediately after breakfast and by the end of the day the team was worn out and pleading for a mixer. We had poured a 10' x 50' area and the rest of the 10' x 25' area, all mixed by hand.



The Tent Continued:

We ordered a mixer that came with a man for \$80. With the mixer we were able to pour two 10' x 50' areas on Wednesday. As Thursday morning came we had two 10' x 50' areas left to pour. We got the first one done at 2:30 pm as the sky became black with thunder and lightning and it started to rain. I told the guys to clean up and that we were going to call it a day and we'd finish in the morning. Then I was told by the man running the mixer that we would not have it in the morning and our time was done. At this time is when the Lord really showed up!!

After making sure I was hearing right, I told the guys to hang on and went and talked to the Lord and to Pastor Jim about getting help with the last pour. He prayed about it and said he and the men would be out in five minutes. We were trusting that the Lord would work it all out to His glory, and that is what He did! We started the mixer up at 3 pm and started pouring concrete, and at 4:55 we finished the last section and the sun was out and the sky had cleared with no rain in the area. (Work that had taken us six hours earlier had taken less than two.)

This to me is the best part of the whole project of the tent...as we finished, the young people helping started clapping and the man looked at me and motioned with his hands and pointed to heaven indicating we'd prayed about it and he had a big smile on his face. All God!

God's workmanship is often more than we can ask or imagine. What started as an empty hill became a place of worship and refuge.

Next Steps - God's Next Direction

I see God work daily in Guatemala! With fewer distractions, I'm able to see when He shows me His love, power and how He is in control of all. I'm feeling called to not only do the work that I've been asked to do but to also reach out to the community and continue to build the Temple and bring others to the "Wedding Supper." (See Haggai, Matt. 22 and Rev. 19:9)

Through connections made by the DIRT team when they came down and with the blessing of Pastor Francisco, Calvary Chapel Antigua, plus the help of those on site at the

Center, I will begin working with local Fire/ Emergency Departments to utilize the tent as a staging area for disasters and begin a "men of arms" type ministry to help in the community. There are two hospitals in Antigua holding about 250 people in a city of 4,000 and the surrounding area of about 18,000. With three volcanos active in the area and a history of earthquakes, floods and mudslides, this is a needed resource and a perfect way to show God's love and encouragement and to invite the community to the church. Several

Captains in the Departments are excited and want to partner in this opportunity to share the Gospel in a tangible way. God tells us to be prepared for the day is coming!



Emergency workers listening to DIRT presentation last fall in Antigua.

I value your prayer partnership in this endeavor and if you'd like to be included in email updates, feel free to contact me at neradjoe@yahoo.com.

*If you would like to partner financially, you may donate funds to: S.E.E.D. Ministries, PO Box 3327, Riceville, TN 37370
Please note "Joe Nerad" on your check*



Thank you all! Joe