

Shotgun Journals: Next Stop

On the adventure of life with Jesus, there's always different stops and seasons along the journey. Times and seasons for different changes and transitions. Times for growth and new experiences. Times for new stages and new opportunities. Along with the good, comes the tough, but it's all worth it in the long run. It's all worth what God wants to do in us and through us. It's all worth it when you think of all God is asking you to do for furthering the kingdom. It's all worth it for the souls, the families, the marriages, and the children that you will impact and reach all because you allowed for the stops, the changes, and the seasons.

It's been 8 months of Spanish school. 8 months of revising and rebuilding the way we speak the Spanish language, 8 months of change and transition, 8 months of God appointments, and 8 months of working hard unto the Lord in what He set out for us to do. And now that season has come to an end. Well, its ongoing in the sense of using what we've learned and applying it to the next steps, but Spanish school and our routine of what was for 8 months is no more. Thus begins another season and another transition. A transition from being with primarily Americans (or Canadians), who like us, were here to learn the Spanish language, to now being predominantly among the Mexican people and the base. A transition from being with missionaries from the US to locals who have the same heart for God and same heart to support what the base is doing here in Mexico. I love how God has used our family and highlighted certain people to either minister to, be family to, love on, or reach out to. Some have been the local Mexicans, but surprisingly, many were amongst the Americans (and Canadians) from the Spanish school. And we love and appreciate the relationships formed there and how many of the students had also been a blessing to our family and even befriended our children. Now we pray and ask for the Lord to lead us in the same amongst the Mexican people. Expand and strengthen relationships. Let us and our family be a blessing to those around us. Let us be family to those who need it, love to those who need it, and minister to those who need it as well.

Spanish school gave us a lot. It not only helped us so much with learning the language in a more profound way, but it also expanded our vision through the building of relationships with the other students. We got to meet some amazing people with different callings on their lives and connect with them in friendship and possibilities of more to come. We also received 2 more monthly supporters just from being here so far. How amazing is that? Sometimes you never know where God will take you or why certain divine appointments or relationships happen, but God does and He's working it all out for our good and for the good of others. Sometimes the very reason God uses you to get to a place turns out to be a different purpose or reason for being there. We had a family here who thought they were only here to learn the Spanish language for one level. But when they got here, they saw that it may not have even been that. It may have been to form relationships with people, to expand their horizon, and to allow for God to just have his way. God will get you where he needs you to be in your willingness but not necessarily in your

expectation of what's to come. It may be completely different than what you expected and a lot of times that's a good thing. It's just like when we got here to Roca Blanca. All we knew was to go to Spanish school. And God unfolded the rest. In fact, he's still unfolding it! I trust Him to know better than I do, and I trust where He leads and allow Him full reign of my life!

So what's next for the Cadena Clan? Our children will be attending the school on the base as actual students not just visiting students, and they recently formed a soccer team which our boys are now on for the base. Our next stop is the bible school here on the base. As we have already mentioned, we will be working with the base with short term teams, and eventually we'd like to be filling the guesthouse with groups, pastors, and Christian families. We'll be working hand and hand to use the guesthouse as a resting place for those who come through to help us do a work or want to come and see what God has done and is doing in Roca Blanca. However, in the midst of this work, preparation and immersion with the people here on the base is essential. The bible school connects the people here who are doing a work for the base on a spiritual level which allows us to all work together in one accord. It also gives us opportunity to meet people and pastors of the area, experience the various cultures of the area, and see firsthand what God is doing here in Mexico.

In addition, we have been asked to work with the radio station on the base with promotional videos and translating from Spanish to English and at times, English to Spanish. It's just another means of using what we've learned in Spanish school and applying it. The radio station is used to get the word out about the base, what it is doing, and how it is changing lives for the kingdom. We knew we'd be translating and using the gift of language, but we never knew it would be used in this capacity. We're honored to work with them to get the word out on what the Missionary Base at Roca Blanca is doing!!

Thank you for being a blessing and supporting us and what God is doing through us and the base in Roca Blanca, Mexico.