



Bartel-Cruz Family serving with YWAM in Bluefields, Nicaragua

Hello, family and friends!

We are excited to share with you some of the things that have happened in the last three months. This time has been full of expansion of vision, key connections, being challenged and equipped in our ministry. First off as you may know from the photo up top we were able to meet the founder of youth with a mission, Loren Cunningham. He is a little over 80 years old and continues to call himself a youth with a mission. It was a great opportunity to hear from him in person about God's heart for why YWAM and the University of the Nations started and exists.

University of The Nations Workshop:
on Earth as it is in Heaven

The Nations adore you Jesus! You are Lord over all, for all things have been created by you and for you!

During the conference it was special to worship Jesus with over 50 Nations represented and in 5 languages (English, Spanish, Korean, Portuguese and sign language).

As a collective group of YWAM international we were challenged greatly by Skye Jethani a Christian and Missionary Alliance pastor from Chicago. He challenged us as image bearers of God to be the representatives of God we were created to be and govern over all things as He governs. This causing beauty, order, and abundance to be multiplied in the nations.

We were challenged to seek God and ask Him what it would look like for His kingdom to be present in our cities and the nations.



Skye Jethani painted an amazing picture of where we are headed in the future and what is our part and role in this. Seeing that God is in the process of redeeming creation and creating the New Jerusalem that is to come and has called us as His image bearers to participate with Him in this task. How amazing to know that God desires to partner with all of us.

I see that God desires to redeem the reality of His image in all people so that all would live in that authority of being people that govern or rule like Jesus does and bringing all things back under His perfect and good Lordship. Just think of the implications of this happening. Then think how this could affect the poor, orphan, homeless, widow, and refugee.

After our time at the University of the Nations workshop we went to the YWAM campus in San Jose, Costa Rica for the UniQuip school leaders training. Upon arrival in our new location I looked over at Deby and told her “I feel like God is preparing us to be catapulted into something really big soon.” Deby looked back at me and said “I feel the very same way.” We were realizing that this time in Costa Rica was not just about being trained for the DTS here in Bluefields but even to connect us with future plans God has for us and people that are key both for what is happening now and for what is to come.

What does that even mean? God has been speaking to us about South East Asia and specifically Laos. For the moment we believed the way God was asking us to be obedient was just to pray, start to get information about the area, and wait and see when the first opportunity to visit South East Asia is. Well, God surprised us in a big way. We made a connection with a DTS school leader that sends his schools to Laos. Through him we now understand tons more than we did before about ministry in this country and have connection with others working there. But it didn't stop there. During the University of the Nations workshop they announced where next year's YWAM international gathering will be. September of 2018 YWAM international will have their gathering in Thailand! Right away we looked at each other with a look that said wow, we absolutely need to take this invitation seriously and make it to Thailand. The last thing that was in our mind is that going to Costa Rica was going to connect us to South East Asia but that is exactly what God did.

UniQuip school leaders training conference:

Did you know that one of the ministries of YWAM is a University? We knew this but before participating in this training conference did not understand the depth of what this University really is. This is important for us because the DTS is a part of this University and actually the entry course to doing any other higher level education courses. As leaders of the DTS that also makes us staff of this big University.

During this time God used the conference to impart to us what His heart is for this University in YWAM. God is using the University to Disciple nations and multiply missions in the world. You can get degrees up to the level of a master's degree in the areas of Arts & Sports, Christian Ministries, Communications, Counseling & Health Care, Education, Humanities & International Studies, and Science & Technology. This opens a huge variety of opportunities and values that in all of these areas of studies God can use them to make disciples in all the nations and to make Himself known.

This university is unique in many ways and one of those being that no one location has all of the courses. It is literally a University of the Nations. This university gives the opportunity for someone to receive education in a way that brings transformation to the individual at the level of mind and heart and then given the opportunity to put that into practice while they learn. Even individuals without high school education can study in this University. This brings dignity to them and gives them the gift of education in a way that brings freedom and transformation.

Capturing the vision and heart of the University of the Nations opened our eyes to how God would desire to use this here in Bluefield's. The cool thing about the University is that its purpose is for all courses to involve themselves at a deep level in the community. Making it a key part of the transformation of our community and development of leaders.



Above in the photos are two key people and dear friends we meet during our time in the conference. Mandy from South Africa and Merle from the USA.



Just this last week we said goodbye to a team from Virginia. During their time with us they distributed Bibles, gave provision packages of food to families in the rock quarry, were involved with Verbo and Tabernacle church, feeding program ministry, and gave a seminar to a group of churches on missions.

The door is open always for you to come with a team or even come alone to serve here with us! We would love to have you. You can communicate with me if wanting information or to plan a trip.

How can you be praying?

- Pray for the Bible project. We are still raising money for the Miskito Bibles and continue to go out with Spanish and English Bibles
- Pray for Julissa and Brais. They both have applications for the DTS right now. Pray that they would not get discouraged in the process and hand in the application
- Pray for more students to ask for applications and begin to apply
- Pray for God's guidance in us getting to Thailand for the YWAM together conference next September

The time we have been waiting for has officially come! November 14th we will be flying to visit home in Minnesota. We are really looking forward to seeing many of you in person and for you to be able and finally meet Deby. Don't forget that Nov. 25th from 1-5pm we are having an open house style celebration at my parent's house. The address is 61567 234th Ave. Mantorville, MN 55955. We hope to be see you there!

Thanks again for all of your generous support. The reality is that without the support none of what we do is possible. We truly appreciate the way you chose to partner with us.

With love,

Caleb & Deby Bartel-Cruz