

HONDURAN HORIZON

News, Stories, and Tales from Tegucigalpa



These aren't just any cupcake. This is a delightfully, delicious apple cupcake with cinnamon marshmallow frosting. Never have I ever stood at the stove above a double broiler, whipping a sugary mixture for five minutes while praying desperately for sweet success... until now!

SOMETHING SWEET

Taste and see that the Lord is good.

These are words that wake me up in the morning and carry me through both spectacular and somber days.

This is the word of the Lord. This is His proclamation and promise that He is good. We know God is faithful (Romans 3:3-4) even when we are found without faith. He keeps His promises even when we have twisted His words.

God is always true, always perfect, always good. Do I sound redundant? I hope so. The blessing of this truth seems to seep in anew every time I return to it.

Recently, I've been re-discovering God's faithfulness in this promise (that we can taste and see He is good) by way of baked goods, full kitchens, and Monday afternoons. Before you think that I'm about to blaspheme this beautiful verse in Psalm 34, keep reading. I believe

God works through the everyday-ness of life to teach us eternal truths. Right now, baked goods, full kitchens, and Monday afternoons happen to be that beautiful everyday classroom.

Before the school year began, I had visions of laughter circles and conversation and community. I'm no expert, but I've been to college and I know what draws a crowd: food.

God's design - the very way He worked out the specific details of our bodies - involves a real need for food. Sure, we distorted and perverted and twisted this real need into dependence and false comfort and momentary satisfaction. But, in the beginning, God made Adam and Eve with a body to **enjoy** - taste and see - food.

He intentionally chose to make us dependent on food for survival, but also capable of enjoying the necessity. He didn't have to do that, but He did. Wow. And there's more.

(continued on page 2)

from the field



you'll find me with a smile

I'm just letting you know, in case you come to visit, that you will find me with a smile. In God's grace, I see and praise Him for the many, many ways He is intimately involved in the things of creation. His beauty is consistently astounding me... and I welcome my silly, startled response. Daily, I find myself like a child... who has just been given an invitation to a room full of colorful, beautiful, deliciously creative candies. Well, like that times a hundred!

reasons to smile

1. Saturdays filled with student connections and service and coffee and a full house
2. Sundays brimming with sermons and journals and Bible time and more sermons
3. Monday afternoons with Alejandra and Elena - baking up a storm
4. Tuesdays when we get to pass out the result of our baking
5. Wednesday through Fridays...

vision

Love God. Love others.

My heart is to love the Lord with all my heart, soul, mind, and strength and to love other (Deuteronomy 6 and Mark 12).

STUDENT SPOTLIGHT

Maybe it was a good first impression or exemplary classroom work or perhaps a good conversation... whatever it was, the students featured in this section stand out.

She is one of few students who is still short when she stands next to me. This isn't the only reason why I love this beautiful girl!

With a sweet, sensitive spirit, Elena is always eager to give a smile. Elena captures what I have spent some time running after - gentleness. When God asks us to do things, "with gentleness and respect" I

Elena Mejia

sometimes struggle to make sense of it. Elena's gentleness is evident and for that I give God glory and hope others are touched as I am! A senior this year, I pray the mark she leaves is a decidedly gentle one.

SOMETHING SWEET

We are all familiar with the words from Genesis 1:27, "So God created man in his own image, in the image of God he created him; male and female he created them."

What I didn't recognize until day two of Kay Arthur's "Return to the Garden" study (in a room full of high school girls gobbling up warm cookies) are these words in 2:18: "The Lord God said, 'It is not good for man to be alone. I will make a helper suitable for him.'"

God knew long before extracting a rib that Adam was made for relationship. Adam was made in the image of a triune God and longed for community before he even knew what to call the longing.

So, we were made to eat and we were made to share. Let me re-phrase: we

were made to eat, share, and ENJOY it. I just cannot get over this design.

The most beautiful part of my re-discoveries is a return to the thought from which all these began, "Taste and see that the Lord is good." There is a hunger in our bellies only satisfied by more of Him. Every sweet blessing is a reflection of this Truth.

As my heart wells up with thanksgiving at the way we are designed to enjoy life together (through baked goods, full kitchens, and Monday afternoons), I know my true affection is for the Creator of these marvelous things. He is, indeed, good. His design reflects our need for and our satisfaction in Him alone.

Psalm 34:8 continues, "blessed is the man who takes refuge in Him."

That is something sweet.

what I do

guidance counselor papers, conferences, planning

I am so so thankful for this third year. I am only now understanding my role and how I can be most useful with the smattering of gifts and weaknesses I have to offer this position and these students. I have been more active in developing workshops, programs, and getting into classrooms to support teachers in the ever-important work of leading these kids into learning!

service coordinator Hands and Feet

We are so excited to start this year off strong with the Sleep Out event, coming up on October 22nd. Please pray for us as we host this overnight-outdoor-madness. The point is not to freeze or even to raise a lot of money... the point is to love well because God has commanded us to do so. Pray with me to this end!

mentor Bible Study/Discipleship

What an inexpressible joy to enter into year three with these girls! We are studying, "Return to the Garden" by Kay Arthur. This study has been reviving my spirit and bringing so much joy... and that's just the preparation! Studying with these girls brings tons of life to my days!

servant Manos Extendidas, Micah Project, AFE

I can only say I am excited to see what the Lord does this year!

THAT'S WHAT I READ...

trying to learn from those faithful who have gone before

"Especially with regard to heavenly life, there is no drop of vigor in us save what the Holy Spirit instills. For the Spirit has chosen Christ as his seat, that from him might abundantly flow the heavenly riches of which we are in such need. The believers riches abound in them. Hence they are justly called Christians."

- John Calvin in *Institutes of Christian Religion* on Galatians 5:14-18

photo galleries

3

Instead of the bullet points that have started to fill this space, I am excited to share some of the pictures that capture the last couple months. God, in His grace, allows me to see Him at work. There is nothing more beautiful than God's grace abounding and His might hand working to draw His creation toward Him in the most wonderful act of redemption.

PHOTO GALLERY for september



prayers and praises

- PRAISE for God's perfect peace and transformative work - always refining my roughest parts!
- PRAISE for the beautiful work God ALREADY accomplished in students over the summer. I am SO blessed to see the result of His labor in their hearts!
- PRAISE for the beautiful balance of energy with patience and trust in the Lord's design.
- PRAISE the Lord because Louis (my car) is still working. Every day I am thankful for this blessing.
- Please PRAY for obedient hearts in students and staff to listen and respond to God's voice.
- PRAY for the upcoming Sleep Out event on October 22nd, hosted to soften our hearts for the children on the street.
- PRAY with me for specific girls who I am meeting with regularly who may or may not be children of God, but all need to be drawn into His presence. Please lift up these names: Victoria, Vivian, Alejandra, MariaJose, Daniella, Adriana, and Elena.

contact info

Caroline Nichols

Academia Los Pinares

Apartado 3250

Tegucigalpa, Honduras

Email: caroline.m.nichols@gmail.com

Twitter: care_oh_line

Blog:

www.musingsinmontage.wordpress.com

Check the blog for frequent posts - I try to write something daily or at least on a regular basis.

If you want to send mail, send it by Airmail and packages MUST be under 4 pounds. Packages over 4 lbs. can be sent by private carrier.

FINANCIAL CONTRIBUTIONS REPORT

Here I will publish what I've raised and how it is spent. The numbers are rounded because of exchange rates, but should give you an idea of what your contributions have been used for this month.

I know it might be confusing, but it is easiest for me to explain my income in this way: with the salary given by the school, I am able to make payments on my school loans and pay for very basic living expenses. In making those payments, it is impossible to be involved in life and ministry. For this reason, I am ever-grateful for your support.

DATE	RAISED	SPENT	CATEGORY
9/1/10	\$375		
9/3/10		\$100	car maintenance, gas
9/5/10		\$100	materials purchased this summer
9/6/10		\$100	Bible study materials, groceries
10/1/10		\$125	student discipleship, personal outreach
10/1/10	\$900		E. Free church support
	Balance	\$850	

If you feel God leading you to support me financially, you can make a check out to Evangelical Free Church with my name in the memo line.

If you feel led to support me through prayer, there are prayer cards available at the church or also by mail (please email me if you are interested).

If you feel led to support me through the ministry of mail, please see the address above!

*Address:
Evangelical Free Church
East 22nd Street
Atlantic, Iowa 50022*