



Jeff

In

EL SALVADOR

March 2010

Mosh Pits: Lessons in Discipleship

PRAISES

- ◆ WE HAVE A NEW BROTHER IN CHRIST!! EDUARDO ACCEPTED CHRIST LAST MONTH AND HAS BEEN ABSORBING THE WORD LIKE A SPONGE.
- ◆ WE WERE ABLE TO HAVE SPIRITUAL DIALOGUE IN THE MEDICINE SCHOOL, THANKS TO DR. RON COMING WITH THE SPRING BREAK TEAM (SEE ABOVE PHOTO)
- ◆ OUR STUDENT MISSIONS TRIP TO HONDURAS WAS A GREAT SUCCESS!

PRAYER REQUESTS

- ◆ MINI-MOVEMENTS: PRAY FOR THIS NEW STRATEGY OF REACHING THE CAMPUS: STARTING STUDENT-LED SMALL GROUPS IN EACH SCHOOL DEPARTMENT
- ◆ CAMPUS TEAM UNITY: PRAY FOR US AS A STINT TEAM AND CAMPUS STAFF TEAM TO COMMUNICATE AND CONNECT IN HEALTHY WAYS WITH EACH OTHER PERSONALLY AND IN MINISTRY.

CURRENTLY READING

- ◆ "RELATIONSHIPS: A MESS WORTH MAKING", BY TIM LANE & PAUL TRIPP

BLOG: FUN STORIES
Living-life-in-el-salvador.blogspot.com

We were standing in front of our seats watching one of the warm up performances: a peppy young Latina singing pop songs about Jesus. Brandon, Brian and I, alongside José, my student disciple in Vida Estudiantil, waited as this was the last of three warm up performances before the long-awaited Christian rock band, **Rojo**, took the stage. The crowd had been chanting their name throughout the introductory performances – quite rude I thought – and now with Christian Shakira on stage, things were really starting to get out of control. We turned around to see a mass of people surging towards us, breaking through the ropes dividing our VIP section from the rest of the audience and pushing aside chairs like linebackers blitzing the quarterback. They started to crowd in on our little tea party, shoving Brandon into me, and trying to take our chairs to make more standing room. Suffice to say, this was the angriest I've been in a long time. We stubbornly hung in there a while, fuming and trying to hold our ground, but the crowd won out, and we retreated to the back, where we watched the rest of the concert in peace and safety.

One of the ways God has challenged me recently has been urging me to step into the world of my Salvadorean brothers and sisters. While I was a college student participating in Campus Crusade, **I learned that good discipleship is doing life with your disciples.** That is: letting them see you how you treat waiters at a restaurant, how you handle yourself at the beach, or how you respond to a lawless crowd at a rock concert. So when José mentioned to me in passing that his favorite band was coming to town, he was joyfully surprised when I responded that I'd go with him to the concert. What happened there was unfortunate, but I think it taught both of us a lesson.

As we were driving home, we discussed the incident. I talked about how difficult the transition was from that angering crisis to trying to worship God as Rojo started playing. In Ephesians 4, Paul tells us "be angry and do not sin. Do not let the sun go down on your anger" and in Colossians 3, he tells us "**as the Lord has forgiven you, so you must forgive one another.**" I told José that I realized that I couldn't worship God until I dealt with my anger properly and forgave those people. I was letting the Rojo fans control me, steal my joy and rob me of experiencing God. Forgiving them freed me from this and allowed me to enjoy the rest of the concert. My anger was sinful, but I was thankful that José was able to see how I dealt with it. Discipleship can definitely be messy, but I'm thankful that God uses us as flawed human examples to teach lessons to others. **Please pray for the growth of our disciples and pray for us to live as authentic examples for them** as we continue to figure out what it means to live like Christ.



CHRISTIAN SHAKIRA

SINGING WORSHIP SONGS AFTER RETREATING TO THE BACK

JOSÉ