

## March 2017

Today is March 31st and I am coming upon the last leg of my experience here in Guatemala.

I have been fortunate to travel the beautiful country of Guatemala without incident. Many people including the missionaries on site have warned me of the perils of this land. Trust me, I believe them. I have read the news articles and listened to the stories, but thus far, God has blessed me and provided protection. He has allowed me to understand the danger but experience the beauty of his creation. I was able to visit one of the most beautiful places I've ever seen, Lake Atitlan. During our trip I was able to learn a little more about Guatemalan culture. The differences between each



township are fascinating. I wanted to know more about the way they talk, what they believe and why, their dress and its symbolism, but more importantly I found myself just wanting to know them. I believe that's the true beauty of travel. It's not what you see but how you see.

This time of year brings with it the celebration of Easter. During a outing to Antigua we were able to see the beginning of the festivities. Catholicism is very prevalent in Guatemala. There was a parade that shut down miles of streets. It carried symbolic materials and depicted Adam and Eve as well. I saw men dressed in Roman garb carry



smoking lamps. The most interesting thing for me however had to be the carpets. Meticulous work goes into these works of art. Most are made of colored saw dust! Some are flowers and fruit displays. The artists work on these carpets and then the parade comes along and walks over it like a Holy sacrifice. I've yet to fully understand this particular tradition but it makes me think of my life. I should be a carpet. Completely willing to be sacrificed for the glory of God. If not a carpet, at the very least one should hope to have a heart of the artist. All that hard work with the sole intention of God's will no matter how messy it may seem.

My time is nearly finished here but I don't believe my learning or my passion to know more about the people of Guatemala is anywhere close to coming to an end.

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**AIMer to Guatemala**

