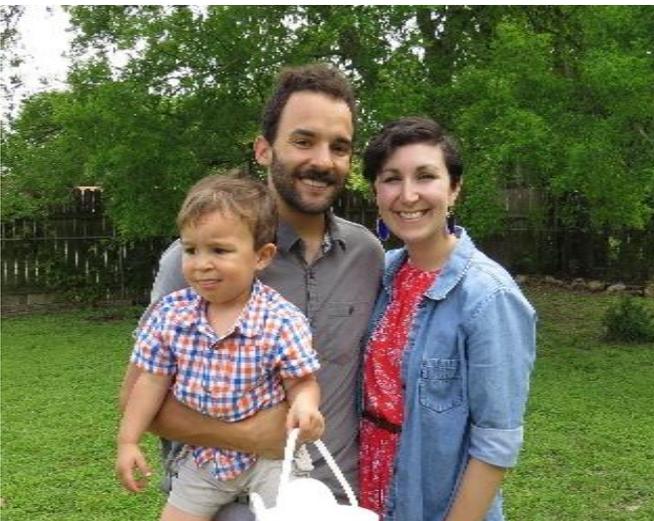




Above: Cody, at the heart of this picture, was also close to the heart of our 2014 Summer Mission team. Below: Today, Cody, a new Cru staff member, with his family.



## Prayer Requests

- For a Quito summer mission team of 5-6 male & 7-9 female students. For us as we plan campus ministry strategies & team discipleship curriculum.
- For our Lowcountry staff team as we focus on building Christ-centered leaders to reach the campus next fall, & mobilizing students for summer & post-graduate ministries.

Five years ago, I had a conversation that went something like this:

“He just prayed to receive Christ with me last semester. He’s been growing a lot but is still rough around the edges.”

“How rough?”

(I listen to the description of just how rough.)

“Hmm. Why isn’t he considering a US summer mission?”

“Well, he was adopted but his biological parents are Lebanese & he has a heart to explore his heritage & to also to take the Gospel to Lebanon.”

A week later I’m holding a phone interview with Cody, the student in question. Soon, we get to the heart of the matter.

“Cody, I’ll be honest with you: there’s a good chance some of the things you struggle with could get worse when we’re overseas due to the cultural stress you’ll face. It may also be pretty tough because you have virtually no ministry experience, and our pace is pretty rigorous. I don’t think going to Lebanon would be the next best step for you.”

“If that’s what you truly think I’ll apply for a stateside summer mission. But I know I can do it. It’s been a growing desire of mine since I came to Christ & I believe He’s calling me to go, but at the end of the day, I trust your judgement.”

I prayed about it, & warily, accepted him. He proved to be well worth the risk. Cody ended up displaying one of the most teachable, humble, servant-hearted attitudes we’ve ever seen. He sincerely desired to grow & did—like a weed. I’ll never forget the last night of mission when he shared how grateful he was to be there, despite (knowingly) being a bit of wild card. Then I listened as person after person told Cody how he had been used by God in their lives. Cody, who we thought was one of our greatest potential risks, turned out to be one of our most beloved teammates.

This summer Shannon & I have the privilege of leading yet another summer mission, this time to Quito, Ecuador. We’re in the midst of recruiting & interviewing a team of students to go with us. Right before our team leader training a few weeks ago, we get a call from Cody. He’s married, has a beautiful little boy named Malik (a nod to his Lebanese heritage!), & has joined Cru staff to reach high school students in Houston with the Gospel. He called to ask if we’d invest in his ministry support team! Easy choice.

As we sat in the commissioning ceremony of our team leader training, this all hit me. From risk to full-time missionary, the transformation that God did in Cody’s life gave me a new excitement for the endeavor before us. Only God knows the impact this summer will have not only on Ecuadorian college students, but on student teammates like Cody & even ourselves.

Please join us in prayer for fruit that will glorify God this summer, & for the fruit that we may not see until years later!