



SCOTT ENGLAND (ON THE NEXT PAGE) AND CHAD HAMBRICK (IN THE PHOTO TO THE LEFT) ARE JUST TWO AVERAGE GUYS. GROWING UP, THEY DIDN'T KNOW EACH OTHER, BUT BOTH WERE SEARCHING FOR MEANING IN ALL THE WRONG PLACES. BUT THEN GOD RESCUED THEM. AFTER BEING INTRODUCED TO GOD, THEY DIDN'T KNOW EXACTLY WHAT THEY WANTED TO DO WITH THEIR LIVES. THEY JUST KNEW THEY WANTED TO FOLLOW AND HONOR HIM. NOW, BECAUSE THEY'VE BEEN WILLING TO FOLLOW WHEREVER HIS WINDING PATH LEADS, GOD IS USING THEIR TALENTS TO ADVANCE HIS KINGDOM IN GUATEMALA.

HERE'S THEIR STORY...

IN CHAD'S OWN WORDS

"In high school, I vividly remember thinking that people were watching me each day as I walked through the halls. I had created an imaginary audience in my mind, and, sadly, I existed to please that audience.

"I grew up in a blended family and I was always looking for a place to fit in. My search for belonging led me on a journey of pain and self-destruction that included impure dating relationships, alcohol, and drug abuse.

"My journey was darkest the night I understood that I needed Jesus. Pretending to enjoy my senior year of high school, I went to a party after a football game with some of my pleasure-seeking friends. As usual, I tried to numb the pain inside with drugs, and I ended up lying on a cold, concrete floor, unable to move. I was helpless and hopeless, and I thought that I was about to die right then and there in front of all the people I'd been trying to impress.

"I don't know how long I was on the floor, but as I lay there I remembered being in kindergarten at a church. I could see it as clear as day . . . this kind elderly lady was sharing the love of Jesus with me. I remembered the boy who shared Christ with me when I was a lifeguard at a neighborhood pool, the school counselor who took me to a Christian bookstore to get a Christian CD, the PE teacher who gave me a 3 x 5 index card that said, 'He that is in you is greater than he that is in the world.' I even remembered the bedtime Bible stories

my Mom read to me when I was a kid. It was like God was taking me on a guided tour of a few of the moments when His truth had been presented in my life.

"As these thoughts raced through my mind, I knew that I needed Jesus. I tried to speak His name, but I couldn't move my mouth. I started thinking the name Jesus over and over until I could faintly whisper it. I whispered it over and over and the next thing I knew I was standing up frantically yelling His name. All of a sudden a calm came over me and a still, small voice as clear as anything I've ever heard guided me over to a desk with a Bible on top of it. I picked up the Bible and fell to my knees asking God to forgive me for choosing less than His best. I asked Him to fill the emptiness inside of me that nothing else had been able to fill.

"When I stood up and looked around everyone at the party was staring at me. Ironically, I had always wanted them to look at me but not really in this way. I'm not sure what came over me but I asked them if they knew that God was real. I talked to them about Jesus. I shared my faith with them the best I knew how.

"I wanted everyone at school to know what had happened in my life so I printed a one-page account of my 'Jesus story' and had friends stand at every door of the school handing them out so everyone I had been a bad influence on would know that I had surrendered my life to Christ. Early on in my relationship with God, I told Him I'd go wherever He led me. I've been following Him ever since."

IN SCOTT'S OWN WORDS

"Growing up in the suburbs of Atlanta, I was like most rebellious teenagers. Lying, cheating, stealing, and foul language were the norm. It never mattered who I hurt or brought down with me along the way. People around me would always tell me about Jesus, and how only He could satisfy the void I was so desperately searching to fill. I'd always respond by telling them that I'd consider finding out about God when I was older.

"When I was 13, I was out late one night with friends. It was around 12 a.m.—definitely time to be home. The girl taking me home was crashed on the couch. When we woke her up, something wasn't right. She told us that she had taken some sleeping pills and chased them with alcohol. There was no phone and no other way home, but she assured us that she was okay to drive. Young and naive, I went along.

"As we approached an intersection, I saw a car coming up ahead. I knew we were about to turn and thought for sure she would wait until the car passed. I remember my friend yelling, 'Stop!' Tires squealed, glass shattered, and metal crushed in on us. After a few seconds, I could hear the wind blowing and the faint sighs of my two friends. Soon, the police arrived to pry my door open, and I faded in and out of consciousness as they took me in an ambulance to the hospital.

"When I got to the emergency room, I was so relieved to hear the sound of my faithful parents' voices. I overheard the doctors talking about the severity of my injuries—a major concussion, a broken pelvis, and extensive internal damage. The doctors didn't think I'd ever be able to have kids.

"When I finally gained stable consciousness, I lay in bed hurting and feeling lonely and helpless. My mind was racing, and I remembered what some of my friends had told me—the friends who had constantly annoyed me with their advice on how I was trying to fill my empty life with things that only Jesus could fill. Humbled and broken, I realized that it was time to talk to

God. I cried out to Him saying, 'I don't know the perfect words to say or the right way to pray, but God, if You are real, I need You.' For the first time in my life, I could sense God's presence all around me. Overwhelmed with His love, I asked Him to forgive me for the way I had been living, and I told Him I wanted to follow Him from then on.

"Although I had a new foundation, the battle wasn't over. I spent two long weeks in the hospital and in recovery. I needed surgery to see if some of the internal damage from the accident could be repaired. It seemed like forever waiting for the doctors to decide on a surgery date. During my wait, I began to have some complications. The doctors pushed my surgery up and rushed me in to one final x-ray. When they went to read the films, they were baffled at the results. My body had mended itself! They said it was a miracle and they had never seen anything like it. I knew I had been healed and that the Creator of the universe had a plan for my life. After minor surgery to remove scar tissue, I was back to normal in six months.

"I entered high school with a new passion for life and a new love for God. I had determined that I was no longer going to be a negative influence and was going to live my life only for Christ."

THEIR STORY

After high school, both Scott and Chad continued to pursue God and what He wanted them to do with their love for Him.

In his freshman year of college, Scott picked up the guitar and began bringing focus to his love for writing music and leading people in worship. Through God's prompting, he began taking his passion and gifts to the world. He considers himself a "musicianary"—a missionary who uses music to share about God and His love with the nations. He traveled around the country leading worship, and eventually got involved with Adventures in Missions and went to Guatemala. While there, God grew a passion in his heart for the country.

After seminary, Chad felt like youth ministry was the best place for his gifts. Each Christmas Chad's youth group collected shoeboxes full of supplies, and he and a team of students went to Guatemala to deliver them. Year after year they visited orphanages and hospitals, and Chad started to realize that God was growing his love for the country of Guatemala.

GUATEMALA'S NEED

Chad and Scott both loved Guatemala, and both discovered the nation's huge need. Forty-nine percent of the population in Guatemala is under 17 years old and 65 percent of the population is under 25. Why is that significant? Because we learn to follow Jesus by watching people who are older and farther along in the journey than us. But in Guatemala, there's a huge population of young people with very little mentorship to help them navigate life—or to help them learn to walk with Jesus.

The youth of Guatemala aren't growing up in the best of scenarios either. Corruption is rampant in the government and police force. So are drugs and gangs. Because of the poverty, many students just do what they can to survive. And because of the corruption, they don't have many "healthy" options. Without older believers who can help them learn to walk with Jesus, and help them face all of the obstacles of the culture, the country's future is bleak.

THEIR LOAVES AND FISH

On one trip to Guatemala, Chad met a youth pastor, Ricardo Duarte, who wanted

to reach the youth of Guatemala. So Chad gave Ricardo some discipleship materials. Ricardo began using the materials to disciple students, and he began teaching other youth pastors in the area how to do the same.

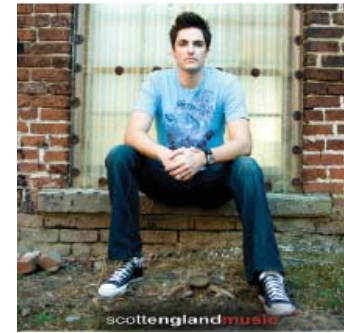
Soon there were hundreds of youth pastors doing life with students and teaching them how to walk with God. Every once in a while, Chad would come and speak to the students and the youth pastors. A huge need in the nation was being met.

As God was doing an amazing work in Guatemala, Chad and Scott's paths crossed stateside and they realized their love for the same country. A brotherlike friendship was formed, and they started thinking about how they could combine their talents to reach Guatemala.

With the growing number of Jesus-followers in Guatemala, there also became a growing need for encouragement of those believers—which Scott's music and Chad's teaching provides. So Ricardo and his team of youth pastors set up opportunities for them to come and speak and lead worship in larger venues. One of Scott's songs, "Good Intentions," spent nine months in the top 10 of the Guatemala radio charts.

And the discipleship movement is growing—in Guatemala and beyond. The guys have heard stories of how Jesus-followers in Guatemala are making disciples in Honduras, Costa Rica, Nicaragua, and El Salvador. God is growing His Kingdom.

Scott and Chad are just two average Jesus-followers with a heart for people to know God. They're using the gifts God has given them, and God is moving in a nation and a continent as a result. That's what happens when a really big God finds followers of His who say, "Here I am, Lord. Send me."



To learn more about Scott and Chad and what they're up to, and to hear Scott's music, check out their websites: www.chadhambriek.com and www.scottengland.com.