

TIM MALLORY: SKATING & SERVING JESUS IN COLOMBIA

By Emily Johnson



Tim Mallory, age 24, was sent out by CC Fort Lauderdale in 2013 and serves as a full-time missionary, both as the youth leader at CC Cartagena, Colombia, and head of Christian Skaters Cartagena, a ministry focused on evangelism and discipleship to the skateboarding community.

How did you come to know Jesus?

I grew up in church, but I didn't really get it. A week before graduating from high school, I was sitting in jail for selling weed. Sitting in jail, I realized I couldn't live like that anymore and I couldn't get out of this mess by myself. I knew the Lord was real, but I put off getting serious with Him until after I had my fun. But that night, I felt the Lord show me I didn't have any other options. Jesus opened my eyes to the Gospel and who He was. I asked God how I could make up for my sin. I felt Him say there was nothing I could do—that was what the cross was for. He just wanted me to return and have a relationship with Him.

How did you change after inviting Jesus into your life?

A youth pastor invited me to live with him and his wife. For the first time, I wanted to talk to everyone about Jesus, but I didn't know how. So, I decided to enter the Patmos* program, and that's how I fell in love with the Word and got so stoked on Jesus. It was an opportunity for me to learn how to share Jesus with people and to mature in the Lord.

**Patmos is a 4-month school for ages 18-35, where students are challenged to depend fully on Jesus and God's Word (www.patmosreality.com).*

How did the Lord call you to missions?

I went to Cartagena, Colombia, on a short-term trip. Once I returned home, God reminded me to pray for Colombia. A short time later, the leadership at Patmos encouraged me to go on the mission field. So I prayed, the Patmos staff prayed, my missions pastor prayed, and God confirmed that I was supposed to go to Colombia.

How did skating and ministry become intertwined for you?

I grew up surfing and skateboarding, so I brought a skateboard to Colombia. I started noticing skateboarders everywhere. I realized skating could be a great ministry tool and a way to connect with people. It's insane to me how God has opened doors through skateboarding, and how He created such a cool ministry.

"We need to look past the obstacles and see how big our God is."

How did the skate ministry begin?

I noticed this plaza full of skaters, so I took my board. Skaters started coming to church with me. Soon, we started small-scale skate contests. I would share from the Bible, give away a few skate things. I told them I love Jesus, and Jesus loves them, and I would hang out to talk. These guys were stoked because they'd never had anyone from outside their community show them love or encourage them. A lot of Christians in Colombia are very traditional and not into outreach; so it is rare for someone to reach out to them in the name of Jesus outside of a church service.

We collected materials and built a little skate park. Finally, we had a place to skate and do ministry. People from different cities come. We do contests and, before we give prizes, we give the Gospel. Every time, skaters come and receive Christ. They're really attentive, interested, and respectful. A lot of them would not go into a church, but they'll come out to a skate park to listen to us teach the Bible.

What aspect of missions are you the most passionate about?

I love discipleship and teaching the Bible. That's where the power is—teaching the Bible and building relationships. Doing ministry the way Jesus did—doing life with people—is my favorite. Just being in their lives is what I'm passionate about.

Has it been difficult for you to be single and in ministry?

Yes and no. I think it's easier in a sense. Relationships take so much work, and so does ministry. Like Paul says (in 1 Corinthians 7), [singleness] is good because you can give yourself to the work of the Lord. But it is difficult too. It would be good to have someone who's there to support you and pray for you, and I do want that. But I'm here, married to the Lord and ministry, and called to singleness right now.

As a single man, how do you keep yourself from falling into sin on the mission field?

I know that, with just a few compromises, I could fall; and it scares me. I know who I am apart from God's grace and how desperately I need accountability. Recently, a brother asked me some hard questions. That's the accountability we need. If we're not right with God and if we have secrets, we won't have power in ministry because we're living a lie. Let's be real: we have temptation. We need to purposely stay connected, be accountable, and be honest.

Do you have any advice for singles called to missions?

Go! Sometimes people feel called [to the mission field], but then they go back home, and that's it. We need to look past the obstacles and see how big our God is. Don't make excuses; don't wait if you don't have to. Don't say, "I can't afford to move to the mission field." Maybe you can't, but God can—and money is so small compared to how big God is. Trust Him. If God is calling you, He'll open the door. However, He won't pull you through the door; you have to choose to go. 🙌