

RAW

After doing a Google search of the word “raw,” I realized that many things might come to mind when someone reads that word. There is a TV show, a raw diet, and even a clothing line that claims that word. When I think of the word “raw” these days I’m not thinking about any of those things. “Raw” is the term that I choose to use for how I feel as I process the loss of a season in my life.

Leaving Guatemala has been a painful experience for me. It is a deep feeling of loss as we said goodbye to friends who have been close like family, a life that we enjoyed, and a culture that we grew to love. The summer was a time of processing a lot of emotions, ones that are still hard for me to formulate into words. So, as I looked into a definition for the word “raw” I found that I really identify with this one: Raw describes a material that is in its natural *unprocessed form*, or *has not had the final stages of processing* (wiki).

How has *unprocessed form* looked in my life? Here are a few examples:

1. Crying in the middle of a Wal-Mart parking lot because I yelled at my kids for flushing paper towels down the toilet.
2. Correcting an employee’s Spanish while waiting for my coffee at the local Starbucks.
3. Getting angry at Kyle for something that was not even his fault.
4. Stammering for an answer to people’s question, *Where you from?*
5. TMI: telling too much information to people who ask simple questions like: *What kind of coffee do you want?*

And then there is my desire to share my “final stages of processing,” as if I have it all together already. It is so much easier to talk about painful experiences when they are already in the past. When I can present my “final draft,” how I sum it all up, how it all has a happy ending. But right now, the rawness of being in the grieving process is my reality.

So, I would ask you to pray for me, Kyle, Kayla, and Elena. We are confident that the Lord has brought us to Colorado for an exciting new season of ministry. But, that doesn’t mean that we are not grieving the loss of an amazing season of life and ministry in Guatemala.

Please pray that:

- we would fully grieve so that we can fully live.
- we would listen to one another so that we can be there for each other.
- we would find healing in Christ so that we can be whole.

In His Care,

