

# THE Burns Journal

**“There’s no air!”** I gasp, flopping on my stomach dramatically and drawing in deep whiffs of the sweet mountain grass that now cushion my face. These healthy Colorado people, they say, “Let’s go on a hike!” like it’s possible for the average human being, and then I decide to tag along and end up slowly dying at 13,000 feet because there’s no air up here.

I roll onto my back and blink at the cloudless sky, waiting for my vision to clear. **There’s only a few hundred feet to go. It might as well be 100 miles.**

Every 3 steps I am gasping for air and seeing stars again. Altitude is a bizarre thing.

“I thought I could do this!” I moan to Cody, who is sitting patiently on a rock 3 yards further up the mountain. “All that mountain biking and rock climbing and camping we did this summer...I felt so fit! But I am not fit when there is no air.”

Cody laughs and Crystal tries to lure me onward with a craisin. I pull myself up into a crawl and squint into the glaring sunlight (the sun feels much closer up here, and based on how far we’ve come, I’m sure that it is).

**Slowly, heroically, I grasp the boulder above me** and begin the ascent for the 15th time, only to collapse again just short of Cody’s rock for more rest. “You don’t have to finish. it’s okay, you’ve done really well!” one of our healthy Colorado companions calls down from near the top.

“No, I have to make it!” I shout back, feeling less determined than I sound, “...you might want to start lunch without me though, I think I’ll be awhile...”



Cody rock climbing



Beka hiking





Fast forward one week and we're sitting in a room with a whiteboard and the group of strangers that will become our classmates as we begin Missionary Training this Monday. A man named George stands to give us our first official introduction:

**"Finish."** He urges, "Don't come to this training to try it out. Count the cost, and if you decide to do this, also decide to finish, no matter what it takes." I think back to the last few hundred feet of Mount Eva and realize, **I will feel that way again.**

As we begin training now, and later move on to the endeavor of bringing God's Word to a new people group, Who knows what it will be that leaves us feeling helpless against the challenge ahead and pining for an escape? But even if it is in the same plodding, inglorious manner that I "conquered" Mount Eva, it is important that we finish, and we want to give our all to that.

## From Cody's Journal...

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Friends. Relationships. People. What are they here for? And what am I supposed to do with them? As we begin our time here at MTC, there are a lot of new faces; people we will not only learn with, but also live with...We need each other. Not only that, but we have a responsibility to each other. God's design only works if we do it His way.

Ephesians 4: 2-3 says, **"Be completely humble and gentle; be patient, bearing with one another in love. Make every effort to keep the unity of the Spirit through the bond of peace."**

Our natural tendency is to look out for ourselves, but we are called to look out for others and put their needs above our own (Philippians 2:3). We naturally fight for our own way, but we are called to unity. It is not a new concept, but one that is so much more on the forefront of my mind now, living with such a large community of believers. I don't need to live a certain way so people will like me. I don't need to invest in people so that I will have friends. I don't need to get to know people so that I will have future ministry partners. I simply need to be a part of the Body as God designed it...It is not about what I can gain from others, but how I can use the place and gifts God has given me to enrich their lives and help them grow along with me.



Our New Apartment

## PRAY FOR:

- **Good Relationships:** In a new church, a new ministry, and a new community.
- **Money:** We are raising money to cover the costs of training, as well as long-term support for when we go overseas.
- **Excellence:** We want to apply ourselves and learn everything we can while we're here.

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**Thank you for praying for us and for giving to help us through training!**

Yours in Christ,  
Cody & Beka



Summit, Mt. Eva