

**From Janet Espinosa:**

### #25 The Lost City of the Monkey God

Something has to get me moving again and completing writing projects. I can complete one small task after morning coffee and then think it is time to read. I have learned to procrastinate so much that I haven't written about our wonderful trip to Chile and Easter Island in late December and early January. Just because I am still trying to get everything in order for building permits for my small house doesn't mean that I should forget to reflect on a month of travel this summer. Enough about me

I read a book by Douglas Preston that really kept my attention. I decided that I should recommend it to friends who know Honduras. Peace Corps friends who were there would be interested as would Doug and Christina who would recognize the sites near Catacamas. Then AHMEN friends who know Mosquitia, Roatan and the northern coast would want to read this. How about my friends who are fascinated by archeology or pre-Columbian history or Honduras now. Then there is Beth who will be most interested in the last chapters about bug bites. I guess all the medical people should read that.

The Lost City of the Monkey God, also known as the White City, has been sought by many during the past century. The Pech and other native groups who live near there have heard tales but nobody had found any traces of an advanced society that was beyond the scope of the Maya. In 2012 some scientists flew from Roatan with advanced lidar equipment to map the terrain suspected to be ruins covered by the rainforest. I was teaching then at UNA just a couple hundred miles from the site of the mapping. In 2015 when they landed helicopters in that area, they used the very small El Aguacate airport as their jumping off point. So much (the geography, roads, military, drug trafficking, politics, history, insects, and deforestation) was familiar from my time there perhaps making this a read where I wanted to know even more. What the teams found in 2015 and 2016 on very short trips to explore and excavate is absolutely incredible.

From the back cover of the book: "Venturing into this treacherous but breath-taking wilderness to confirm the discovery, Preston and the team battled torrential rains, quickmud, disease-carrying insects, jaguars and deadly snakes. But it wasn't until they returned that tragedy struck: Preston and others found they had contracted in the ruins a horrifying, sometimes lethal – and incurable – disease. Suspenseful and shocking, filled with colorful history, hair-raising adventure, and dramatic twists of fortune, THE LOST CITY OF THE MONDEY GOD is the absolutely true, eyewitness account of one of the great discoveries of the twenty-first century."

Now I have written a page. Will I complete other tasks or return to procrastination?! How about you? What will you do today?

P.S. You are invited to join me on a trip to Yorito, Honduras, in early November.