

October 2022



Dear Family and Friends,

“Come now, let us reason together, says the Lord...”

Isaiah 1:18a

“I am so thankful for Casa De Mi Padre. You gave me everything I needed, food, clothing, and my education. I am so thankful for all you have done. In my heart you are my father. No one can take your place in my life. Nothing can change this.”

Difficult conversations are a part of life. Even God had to communicate difficult things to his people. The prophet Isaiah speaking for God shared the sad truth of the physical and moral decline of his people. In the midst of these cutting pronouncements, God spoke through Isaiah these famous words, “Come now, let us reason together, says the Lord...” In the midst of recounting Israel’s sin, God graciously pleads with his people to come and reason together. A wise friend of mine has always said, “God hates sin because it hurts people he loves.” God knows this and is faithful to desire what is best for his people.

As children of Casa De Mi Padre come into adulthood, we have to have many serious conversations. Conversations about life, relationships, marriage, education, and money, just to name a few. This coming January four boys who came to us in the beginning of the ministry will transition out of our home. Many of our conversations have centered around what kind of future they would like to have, education being a very important topic. Some of the kids need to finish high school while others desire to enter the university. We also have some who might do some type of vocational training. We are developing a continuing education program to encourage our young adults to continue their education and provide some type of Christian living environment to help them in their journey of faith, while keeping them focused on their studies. We also have to find sponsors who will help us cover the costs to be able to do this. These costs include \$150 per month for tuition and \$135 per month for boarding.

One of the boys transitioning out this January is Jimmy. He has been with us since 2011. When Jimmy was six months old his mother gave him to his aunt and his mother went to the U.S. Jimmy stayed with the aunt until he was six years-old. During those years, his mother returned and took him back for a short time. It didn’t take long for her to give Jimmy back to the aunt and she left again. In time the aunt began to abuse Jimmy physically. Finally he ran away. When the police brought Jimmy to us he had whip marks on his back and stomach. He told us his aunt used an extension cord on him. When Jimmy first came to our home he had deep emotional wounds and was very fearful. But in time, with lots of love and care, Jimmy became a very different boy. He began to do very well in our home. He excelled in his schoolwork and his personality blossomed. His silly humor was enjoyed by all.

As Jimmy grew, his intelligence and keen mind became evident. I began to play checkers with him. However, I had to discontinue this practice because I hated being beaten every time I played by a 10 year old. There were times I didn’t get one good move and captured not a single board piece. As Jimmy continued to grow, he began to excel in his studies. He is a sharp kid and a very hard worker. As Jimmy has turned into a young adult, we fully expected he would choose to continue his education on the university level. In order to do this we have to work with him to help him choose his course of study and raise the needed funds to make it happen. I had heard a lot of things from others concerning Jimmy’s thoughts. It was now time for me to have the difficult conversation to see what he was going to do. After an evening devotion I asked Jimmy to stay back so we could talk. I began the conversation by saying we needed to talk about his future plans. We have had several mini conversations about what we offer and the pros and cons of staying with the ministry. Now it was time for a decision.

I asked Jimmy, “So what do you want?” He began by telling me how thankful he was for all we had done for him. He communicated to me of his love for me and his gratitude for all the others who had helped support him through the years. He spoke of the wonderful times he had had at Casa De Mi Padre. Then he got to the difficult part. I said, “It is ok to honestly share your heart.” Jimmy said he had decided to go and live with his mother and sister and work to help them. He told me he saw me as his father figure and he didn’t want to hurt me, but he wanted to be with his mother. I asked him how he thought that could really go. His mother has no steady job or income, no home, no transportation or ability to help him continue his education. And truthfully, he will have to work six or seven days a week to make enough to simply cover his food and simple necessity costs. This will leave very little left over for his family. The economic conditions of Guatemala are very tough. But we had discussed all of this before.

I again reminded him our desire was to give him the best level of education we could, so he would have more options for his future and the ability to really help his family. I also reminded him he must continue to seek the Lord. I said, “Jimmy, you must actively pursue God because the devil will be actively pursuing you.” And we all know what the devil wants to do to each one of us. I told him once again I thought it would be best for him to take the opportunity we were offering, but we would just have to agree to dis-



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agree. It was a very tough conversation for me. Jimmy really needs our prayers.

We always have multiple levels of things going on at Casa De Mi Padre. Here are a couple of other happenings. Fermina, one of our grown children, has been recognized as one of the top students in her class. She will graduate in November and has chosen to enter our continuing education program. Fermina plans to attend the university here in our city. We are excited for her decision. Fermina is a fantastic student who is very focused on her future and seeking the Lord. She has helped me for years to direct our Bible Quiz program for our younger children at Casa De Mi Padre. She is a very special and focused young lady. I appreciate all of her help with our quiz program and her love. She will be a success at anything she puts her mind to do.

Happenings at the House. This month the kids in Casa De Mi Padre finished school and all will pass on to the next grade! We are so proud of them and thankful to our education staff for their hard work. Congratulations to all!

Construction Update: On Casita no. 2 the roof is 100% complete. The outside walls are done and the team is working on finishing the inside walls. Our next projects and needs are as follows:

1. Electrical Installation - Purchase Materials and Install
2. Sub floor Preparation Inside and Out - Purchase Materials and Prep
3. Purchase Tile and Supplies
4. Tile Installation Inside and Out

Please pray with us and consider helping with any amount. These are big needs and we have to trust the Lord to see it through.

Christmas is Coming Fast! Over the past decade, we have been able to give the children of Casa De Mi Padre beautiful Christmas celebrations. Christmas is my favorite time of the year. Every year we have given the opportunity for our Child Sponsors and supporters to be able to help us by inviting them help us make this happen.

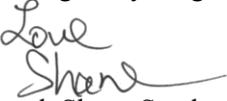
For Christmas 2022, we are inviting our Child Sponsors and friends to go online at: tinyurl.com/casakidschristmas to see each child's wish list and choose a gift or gift's for any child they would like to bless. Please put your name in the space provided so we will know that child's gift has been provided for. Then send your donation for the amount of the gift to Child Rescue and put "Christmas" and the child's name on the memo line of the check or in the comments section for online donations at: givetocasa.com. Please understand, the price of the item will include the import taxes and transportation costs to ship your gift to Guatemala.

We are also inviting people to send financial Christmas gifts to help insure all the kids are covered. We will use the funds to buy gifts in Guatemala to purchase what we can. Send your special Christmas donation and put "Christmas" on the memo line of the check or in the comment section for online giving at: givetocasa.com. Thank you for your help in this.

****All financial gifts for the kid's Christmas must be processed through Child Rescue no later than November 11th****

We are eternally thankful for the many who have sacrificed in prayer and giving to keep us going. Your faithful support allows us to be the hands and feet of Jesus to children who have lost all. We are also grateful for those who have given to help us continue building a permanent home for the present children of Casa De Mi Padre and for those yet to come.

Trusting everything to Him,

Love

Joseph Shane Sanderson

We appreciate and
love you!
Thank you for everything.