



May 2022

Dear Family and Friends,

But as for you, continue in what you have learned and have become confident of, because you know those from whom you have learned it . . .”

II Timothy 3:14

“I have something I want to tell you. I want you to know you are the most important person in my life. I have learned so much. I remember when I was at Casa De Mi Padre you always told us how important our education was. I didn’t get it then, but I do now. I want you to know, I want to do what is right. I want to follow the right path.” When an older teen says, “There is something I want you to know” it is “be quiet and listen” time. And that is exactly what I did. Antonio’s words were well thought out and straight from the heart.

Antonio(19 yrs) grew up in Casa De Mi Padre for nine years. He is now living with a wonderful pastor and his family two hours from our home. Pastor Luis and Rosana have done an amazing job with him. Antonio serves alongside Luis at his two churches helping with their youth groups. Antonio is finishing up his last year of high school and plans to begin in the university next year. Antonio works construction when work is available and studies on Saturdays. The changes in him are a God sent miracle.

As I continue to lead, administrate, and spend time with our children at Casa De Mi Padre, I am beginning to serve in a new role of ministry with our older children, especially those who are a part of our continuing education program. We continue to be an active part of their lives, meeting school needs and encouraging them in their relationship with the Lord. Each year we have two special times we spend with our older kids who have transitioned out of our home. The first is our youth camp program. We put together a three-day and night youth group for the children of Casa De Mi Padre as well as other area youth. Our young adults serve alongside us to make this event happen. It is a blessing having our older children minister with us.

The second event, designed for our transitional kids, is a four-day retreat over Easter holiday. In Guatemala, this is a total county holiday, and during these four days only vital businesses are open. It is a great time for our grown kids to get together. For several years a couple of our dear ministry friends come and join us have funded the retreat, making it a very special time for our older kids. This year we had nine of our transitioned kids with us for this special event. I really didn’t have to do much. One of our oldest boys Peter (22) planned the menu and the kids even did the shopping, cooking and, clean-up. It is awesome to see them working together and staying connected as adults.

At the retreat we did morning personal devotions on the beach. We had breakfast, then Bible study time together. Two of our Guatemalan Casa De Me Padre child-care staff came with us and did some of the teaching. I did the evening Bible study time. It was fun. We studied the last days of Jesus’ life before his crucifixion. On Easter morning we met at 5 a.m. on the beach to read together and I commented on the resurrection and victory of Christ. It was beautiful. Over those four days I enjoyed the little conversations, like the one Antonio and I had, while we made my famous Old El Paso-Velveeta nachos. These personal moments were priceless.

I was able to spent some quality time with our girls as well. Many of you know Sandra. She came to us in the fall of 2011 and remained with us for almost seven years. She had come to us due to sexual and physical abuse. She was broken. But over the years she has yielded her heart to Christ and with a lot of love and care, she began to emerge from the emotional rubble of her past. Spending time with her over Easter revealed a side of her that has taken a long time to blossom. She is so much more happy and bubbly in her personality. She lives with an associate pastor and his wife. They have continued the ministry to her, that we began over a decade ago. The man of the house is caring and gentle with her. She continues to be a beautifully-changed young woman. We had a great time being together.

This past month brought about another first for us. Gerson, one of our grown young men, has struggled since he left Casa De Mi Padre. We have tried to help him in various ways, but he continued to want to do things in his own way the world’s way. Gerson made a lot of wrong decisions and eventually ended up living with a young lady. In time, things became difficult and Gerson found himself alone and depressed. Gerson began to realize his life had spun out of control. He knew he needed to make some changes. He began to make some better decisions in his life, except with regard to the young woman. Gerson eventually moved back in with the young lady. But he knew he was living in a way that was not honoring to the Lord.



From time to time Cole (my assistant) would talk with him and remind Gerson that until he chose to follow God, God would not bless his life. Gerson needed to make things right before the Lord, and he knew it. Several weeks ago I received a call. Gerson said he wanted to see me. The next afternoon he stopped by and said he had something he wanted to tell me. I said, "Let's have it."

Gerson confessed he had not been living right, but wanted to make a change. He said he wanted to marry the young lady. I said, "Well if you believe she is the right one for you, that is what you should do. It is difficult for the Lord to bless you when you are living apart from His word and will." Gerson said he wanted to make things right before the Lord. He said he believed she was the right one for him. Then he had a question for me. He asked, "I want to invite you to my wedding. You are the only father I have ever had in my life, and I want you to be there with us. It would be so important to me." I replied, "I will be there. It would be an honor." Gerson stood and reached out to embrace me, and I returned the embrace. A couple of weeks later we were off to the wedding. It was simple, but nice. Gerson looked so handsome, and the bride was absolutely lovely. At the dinner they invited me to sit with them at the head table. I was seated next to the bride. It was great to get to know her.

At the end of the dinner they asked me if Cole and I wanted to speak to the wedding party. Cole went first. At my turn, I recounted the many times Gerson would come to me sad and depressed. I would ask, "What is wrong Gerson?" It was always the same answer. "Papa Shane, I am sad because I don't have a family." And, I always said the same thing, "It is true, but we are here and we love you as our own." Gerson would make it through the rough spot but he never quite grasped the concept. Standing before the wedding guests I said, "This night is special, because not only has Gerson been given a beautiful wife, he has also gained a family as well." It was an especially joyous night for me to see the Word of God in living action. I know Gerson's story and I know his heart. After being abandoned by his family as a young child, no living family is known to exist. He is a true orphan. But by his simple act of obedience on his wedding night, the scripture in Psalm 68:5-6a, became real.

"A father to the fatherless, a defender of widows, is God in his holy dwelling, God sets the lonely in families . . ."

It was Glorious! I had never seen Gerson so happy. Pray for Gerson and his new bride Cecilia. Pray they will live and share faith in Christ, God's way.

Ministry Needs: We have two new children who need child sponsors, Andrea (9) and Jorge (4). If you are interested or have a friend who might like to sponsor a child, e-mail me at crshane2010@gmail.com for more information.

Construction: We are thrilled to be able to proclaim TOTAL VICTORY for Casita No. 1 as being completed! It is a fantastic milestone for us! We are beginning to build the roof structure for Casita No. 2. We are ready to begin the foundation for Casita No. 3. We need the Lord to provide. Pray with us for these large needs or email me for the amounts needed.

Casa De Mi Padre Staff Needs: We continue to pray for additional support needed to help us pay our child-care staff the government required amount. Please pray the Lord will meet these ministry needs.

Prayer Answered: We have another exciting piece of news, are extremely thankful the Lord has provided Karen Hidalgo and some of her friends to begin producing our monthly print news letter. This is a huge Praise the Lord! It is a big commitment of supplies, time, and postage to make this happen. If you would like to help Karen fund this, please send a gift to Child Rescue and put "News Letter CR-41". We will see that they get help paying for the cost of the letter. I also want to give a special thanks to my Uncle Frank Sanderson, Joyce East, and their team for three years of faithfully getting the new letter to our supporters and prayer warriors. Job well done!

We are thankful for all our prayer partners and supporters. You are an invaluable part in helping us meet needs in the lives of children who have lost all. Thank you.

Truly, what an incredible, mighty God we serve!

Love
Shane
Joseph Shane Sanderson

We are more than
Thankful for you and
for all the Lord has done!
Blessings, We love you.