

Dear Family and Friends,

“These commandments that I give you today are to be upon your hearts. Impress them on your children. Talk about them when you sit at home and when you walk along the road, when you lie down and when you rise up.”

Deuteronomy 6: 6-7

Without a single word I recounted the story of the parable of the weeds. The young man watched intently. Jesus said, “A man plants good seed in his field. But while everyone was sleeping, his enemy came and planted weeds...” Lots of weeds.

To give a little background to the moment, I want to recount the story of how the young man came to us. Five years ago we received a phone call at 9:30 in the evening telling us there was a eight year old boy needing a place to stay for three days. I asked, “Why only three days?” The government childcare worker said, “Because he is deaf and mute. We will try to find a place that helps special needs kids.” I asked, “What is his story?”

Apparently someone had sent the little boy into a hotel by himself and told him to check-in. The boy showed the hotel worker his money and they rented him a room for that afternoon and night. As the hours passed, the hotel owner realized the boy had been abandoned. They called the police. The police delivered the child to the juvenile judge in our town. The children’s judge called Casa De Mi Padre. With uncertainty and yet compassion, I accepted the child. But only for the three day provisional period. I didn’t know if we would be able to help a 100% deaf child.

Thirty minutes later the boy arrived sporting a fresh haircut, tattered clothes, and a backpack. The boy began to show us the content of his backpack. First he pulled out a little car collection, then a extra t-shirt, a small plastic spoon, a small plastic turtle, 30 Quetzals, a comb, and a folded piece of paper. When I reached for the paper, he objected, drawing it back. It was obviously important to him. Finally he let me take it from him. Opening it up I discovered it was some kind of document. It was so worn it unfolded into pieces that we had to fit together like a puzzle. It was the boy’s birth certificate. His name is Mario.

By the afternoon of the next day it became crystal clear, Mario is a very special little boy. He was easy to get along with. He was very happy and he was able to communicate very well using his invented pantomime language. The Lord had also made it clear in my heart that He was big enough to handle everything we needed to properly care for Mario. So we called the judge’s office and informed them they did not need to find another home for Mario. We would be happy to care for him. Five years has passed since that day. Mario has grown so much. He has learned sign language and is still as happy and easy to get along with as the first day he came. He is a part of our home and family here at Casa De Mi Padre.

One of our main desires here at Casa De Mi Padre, is to incorporate the word of God in the daily life's of our children. We do many things to try and accomplish this. These activities include local church involvement, daily devotions, Bible quizzing, youth retreats, and youth camp. But just as important as these activities are, it is also valuable in keeping with the heart of the Lord, to “impress the Word of God up on your children,” as we go about our daily life. Here is a small example.

Normally on Saturday morning at Casa De Mi Padre, the kids ranging from 11 years old and up go and do various work projects needed for the home and ministry. One team of our kids goes grocery shopping in the city market and carries the food out. This is a big job. The second team of kids go to our new property. We do yard work, clean up, or assist with the construction. Last Saturday I had started mowing, then turned it over to Mario to finish. I began to pull weeds in one of our yard areas. One thing I have learned is, if you have land or a yard you will have weeds. Lots of weeds. I have also learned if you do not pull the weeds, the good grass you want to grow; will not grow. You end up with a mess.

After Mario finished mowing, he came over where I was and knelt down beside me and began to help me pull weeds. One of the many things I love about Mario, is when he gets a certain look across his face that says, “Oh I get it.” You can see it in his eyes that he understands exactly what you are saying. Mario is 100% deaf. I am no sign language expert, but Mario and I have spent a lot of time together. So we can communicate.

After we had quietly pulled weeds for 30 minutes or so, I pulled out a nice size weed; root and all. I began to sign to Mario, “Like all these bad weeds, that Jesus talked about. Jesus said the devil tries to put bad things in our mind that are against what God wants.” I signed, “You have to be careful what you allow to come in your mind.” As I was signing to him, that look came over his face and he began to nod his head yes and I could see in his eyes he understood exactly what I was saying. I think this is what God was saying, “Impress them on your children. Talk about them when you sit at home and when you walk along the road, when you lie down and when you rise up.” Keeping God’s word real for our kids, moment by moment is so valuable.



At this time, we have several girls at Casa De Mi Padre who are growing up to be lovely young ladies. As they have grown, I have felt the gentle nudge by the Holy Spirit to get these girls involved with the women of our church. It would be a natural fit because the administrator of our distance learning school also goes to our church. Claudia is a gracious and godly lady who has taught some of our children most of their educational lives. They love her.

Recently at our church, Claudia gave an announcement about a ladies retreat the church was going to have. I felt the Lord's prompting saying, "Here is your opportunity for the girls." So after church I told Brenda I would like her and the older girls to be part of the ladies retreat. She shook her head "yes." Claudia was very excited the girls were going to participate. After the retreat the girls came home and seemed really happy. I asked them if they had a good time and what they had learned? They all said they enjoyed it. Then Brenda boldly spoke first and said, "I learned that the Lord is my refuge, I can always run to him no matter the difficulties I am going through. That is what I learned." The other girls said similar things.

I thought to myself, "With all the devastating things our girls have been through, with all the things they have lost, they need to know that God is a strong refuge they can run to. I strongly believe this type of interaction in the church will help them continue to be part of a local fellowship long after they leave Casa De Mi Padre. We love Brenda, Lucrecia, and Reyna so much. I have been so impressed with Brenda watching her grow in such a beautiful, spiritual young lady. And seeing Reyna and Lucrecia beginning to enjoy being with the women of the church fills my heart with much hope for these girls.

Our commitment to do everything we can to daily impress the commandments of the Lord, the beauty of Christ, and the deep need for God in our kids lives is paramount. Please pray with us as we walk along side and live life with the children of Casa De Mi Padre.

Construction Update: The final part of completing the roof on Casita no. 2, is to finish the roof over the entryway and living room. We are also moving forward on applying the masonry coat to the exterior walls. We will be continuing on this for the next few weeks. Our next step will be to apply the masonry coat for the interior of the house. The interior work is more costly and time consuming. The materials cost for this will be \$3313.00 and the installation costs will be \$9544.00. Please pray for the Lord's provision for this.

Mission Teams: We are now booking for our 2023 mission season. We would love to have your Bible study group, church mission team, or even a family vacation/mission come to serve with us. We have all types of mission opportunities, custom designed for any size group. These trips are a great blessing to us and always prove to be life changing for those who come. For more information log onto our web site, savingkids.net, and click on, "Serve" and scroll down to "General Missions Info or Construction Missions Info." To hold a date for your group, just email Shane at crshane2010@gmail.com and we will pencil you in!

Full-time Missions Opportunities: We are still praying and seeking a single person or a married couple who believe they have the calling of God to go into all the world and make disciples. Many of our older children have gone through Casa De Mi Padre, but still need additional years to continue to grow in Christ, and complete their high school, university, or other vocational training. The opportunities to help these young people navigate these challenging years and Biblically disciple them are endless. If you or a friend would have an interest in this opportunity, please email Shane at crshane2010@gmail.com, to discuss the possibilities. I would love to answer your questions. Please join us in prayer to see how the Lord will meet this need.

We are thankful for the many who faithfully pray for us and our children. We are beyond blessed by those who help us meet the needs of our children and for those who hold a vision in your hearts to help us continue the construction of our future children's home.

We love you and trust that together the Lord will continue to change lives.

Love
Shane
Joseph Shane Sanderson

Thank you so much
for all you have done
for our children.
You have truly changed
their lives!