

March 2022



Dear Family and Friends,

***“Though my father and mother forsake me, the Lord will receive me.”***

Psalms 27:10

Imagine being totally abandoned and alone. No one in the whole world is looking out for you. We recently received such a little boy.

What we know for sure of Jorge’s story, is he and his mother entered a battered womens’ shelter a few weeks ago. According to his mother’s testimony Jorge is a product of sexual violence his mother had suffered when she was in her teen years. After a receiving help from the shelter, Jorge’s mother decided she no longer wanted her son. She told the staff she was leaving and not taking Jorge with her and departed. Jorge was now totally alone. The womens’ shelter is not designed to care for abandoned children. They contacted the government in the capital city and they reached out to us. It was known we had already been caring for one deaf child (Mario). They wanted to see if we could take another. We had the space and “yes.” Little Jorge (4 years old) had a tough act to follow. Mario (our first deaf child) was near perfect when he came. Mario was so happy, wanted to please, and fit in very well with our other children. Not so with little Jorge.

When Jorge came he was very unhappy, demanding, and often defiant. He yelled and cried a lot. Which is understandable considering he has been through so much for being so young. He is truly a child who has lost all. When a child comes to Casa De Mi Padre we try to meet each one where they are. We try to make every attempt to communicate concern and care for them and begin meeting their immediate physical needs first, and their emotional needs second. Meeting the emotional needs in the beginning can be difficult. It has taken several weeks to get around the craziness of Jorge’s actions to reach his heart. And the process is even more complicated because he has limited sign language. But we have seen signs of hope.

Thank the Lord he is beginning to respond. He loves lots of attention, being held, and being tickled. He does not enjoy being told to wait or be told no. All our other kids are a great help to him. He is a smart little boy and can learn. Now when I drive in the gate of Casa De Mi Padre and get out of the truck he comes running with arms held high and his sweet little smile. I try to meet him with love in my eyes and my arms extended to gobble him up and give him sweet kisses. It is the only way to reach a little one who has nothing and has been so emotionally harmed. We are thankful he is responding. Please pray for Jorge.

At the other end of the age spectrum, I continue to shepherd several of our older children. Sometimes this is not so easy. One case in point is Cristina (20). She graduated from high school with an emphasis in secretarial studies in November and has now begun college. She studies all day on Saturdays. I told her since she had the rest of the week to do home work and has lots of free time, it was time to get a job. Finding a job is tough, lonely, and one can face a lot of rejection. But it is very necessary. The toughest part of getting a job is getting prepared and getting out there. I told Cristina the following week, she would be going out every morning and hitting the streets until she has a job. Monday morning came and she reluctantly pulled herself together and went to town. She contacted friends and teachers for leads-which was good strategy. But after I few days she used up all her leads and became discouraged. Imagine tramping the streets of a third world country trying to find a job. It’s not easy. By Friday, she still did not have job. I told her Monday we were going to start again.

The following Monday morning Cristina showed up in some pretty casual looking clothes; jeans and tennis shoes. I said, “Cristina, those do not look like ‘go get a job’ clothes to me.” Cristina tried to give me some lame excuses which I informed her I was not going to accept. I told her to go and get ready. “You are going out every morning until you have a job.” She gave me her little, “I am not happy with you look.” But I wasn’t going to be deterred. I insisted, “You go change and you better come out looking like a million bucks.” Oh, and as a matter of fact, I am going to go with you every morning until you get a job!”

After her wardrobe correction, we jumped into the pickup and I said lets pray. We prayed for the Lord to lead us, and we hit every business on the way to Quiche. Not much luck. Once in town, we found a place to park and I said, “Lets try that place first.” It was a womens’ health clinic with a lady doctor. Cristina knocked on the door, but no answer. I said, “take a picture of the name of the clinic, the phone number, and the doctor’s name and call them in the afternoon.” Cristina gave me her, “ This isn't going to work” look. I repeated, “Take the picture.” We went on canvassing the town for three more hours. By lunchtime Cristina was pretty run down and discouraged. I said, “Well lets head to Casa for some lunch. We will be back tomorrow.”

When we got to Casa De Mi Padre, I reminded Cristina to call the lady doctor and see if she needed a secretary. We had lunch with all the kids, which was great. A few minutes after lunch, I stepped into the kitchen and Cristina had a look on her face as if



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she had seen a ghost. I asked, "What's up?" She said we need to be at the clinic in twenty minutes. Cristina still had the puzzled look on her face. I asked, "I what else did the doctor say?" Cristina answered, "The lady asked me 'How did you know I needed a secretary?'" Cristina answered, "I didn't." Cristina got her things together and we took off for town.

We parked in the exact same place where we had parked earlier in the morning. I told Cristina, "Go get that job!" I stayed in the truck and began praying. Twenty-five minutes later Cristina was still standing outside on the sidewalk. For whatever reason the doctor made her stand outside. I continued praying that the Lord would give her an open door to get this job. Finally she entered the clinic. Another twenty-five minutes passed and Cristina came out and knocked on the truck window. I unlocked the door. She had her big happy smile all over her face. She said, "Guess what happened?" I said, "No! Yes! You got the job!" She said "Yes!" I said "Oh Cristina! We prayed and asked the Lord to lead us and he did. This was the first place we went to once we got to town. We had no idea the lady needed a secretary, but the Lord did!" I exclaimed, "Cristina that was God! Lets pray and thank the Lord for this." Cristina offered heartfelt a pray of thanks.

Yesterday Cristina began her first real job. The opportunity to use her vocational training in her field for her first job is really amazing. The pay is not the best, but the hours are perfect and the real world experience she will gain in the medical field will be invaluable to her in the future. I was so blessed to see the Lord make himself real to her in meeting her needs. We are proud of her. Praise the Lord!

### Needs of the Ministry

*What's for Dinner:* We are in need of raising funds to help us cover our food budget. We spend about \$2300.00 a month on food for our kids and residential staff. Each meal averages out to .97 cents per person. For all the reasons in our world, prices are increasing. Many in our support base are getting along in years and some have gone to be with the Lord. We must invite a new generation of God's people to join with us in meeting the needs of the children he has placed under our care. We are looking for people who will be faithful monthly donors with gifts large or small to meet this need. If we are going to share the gospel with our children, we have to feed them. Please consider and pray with us for this important need.

*Compliance with the Law:* Within the last few years, Guatemala has phased in a minimum wage law. We are dedicated to try and become legally compliant with this law over the next few months. This means we have to raise the wadges for our people who help us take care of our kids. If we don't do this the employees have the legal right to sue the ministry for all their pay the law requires and hefty penalties to the government. We are hoping and praying the Lord would raise up many of our churches who participate in short term missions here but do not support the ministry on a monthly basis. We need to raise \$1800.00 additional per month to meet this obligation. Please pray with us and share this need with your church if you feel led.

*Building for the Future:* We are continuing to build our future home for Casa De Mi Padre. Casita #1 complete! We are waiting for the front walk-way and some landscaping before we take the pictures. This is a BIG Praise the Lord! Yesterday the concrete crown was poured on Casita #2. This is the final top part of the walls. We are moving toward the installation of the roof, set to begin April. Our next project to advance the work is to begin putting in the foundation of Casita #3. Rainy season is approaching and we need to get the foundation in the ground so that during rainy season we can work above the ground and not in rain filled ditches. We need to raise an additional \$23,000.00 for materials and labor costs to get this done. Working on the roof of Casita #2 (which we have the funds for) and installing the foundation for Casita #3 will speed things up quite a bit. Pray for us as we wait on the Lord to provide these funds.

We are truly blessed to have the opportunity to care for kids who have been forsaken and be God's response to reach out to them. For kids just like Jorge. It is such a wonderful opportunity to be able to daily teach them the Word of God, caringly meet their needs, and with God's help, make disciples for Christ. We are so thankful for your faithful partnership.

In Christ's love,

Love

Shane

Joseph Shane Sanderson

Thank you always  
for your love and  
support.  
You are needed.  
You are loved.

P.S. For the record. The morning Cristina was heading off to her first day on the job, she said, "Thank you Papa Shane for pushing me to get my job. I didn't like it at the time, but I am thankful you did it."