

July 2022



Dear Family and Friends,

“As for God, his way is perfect; the word of the Lord is flawless. He is a shield for all who take refuge in him.”

Psalms 18:30

New faces. There are a lot of new faces at Casa De Mi Padre. Actually, we are beginning on our second generation of helping children in need in Guatemala. Thinking about this, I was drawn to revisit our original missions statement. “To provide a refuge and shelter for children in need.”

When children come to Casa De Mi Padre they come for many different reasons. When I present the ministry at various venues, I always share the reasons why children come to us. I often say, “The children who come to us have been broken, beaten, abused, abandoned, burned, and even sold.” One thing they all have in common, they are children who have lost all. Christ has called us to be his hands and feet for children in such need.

Our latest arrivals, Abelino, Daniel, and Cristofer came to us two months ago. The father is an alcoholic who becomes violent when drunk. He also does not like to work. So the family is very poor. Sometimes the boys did not have adequate food or clothing. At some point their mother became sick. They continued to live with their parents. As things worsened, the boys began to spend lots of time at their grandparents’ on their mother’s side. As their mother grew more and more ill, the father began to sell her clothing and belongings. He then began to sell what little furniture they had in their house to support his alcohol habit. Spending lots of time at their grandparents’, it became difficult for them to care for the boys. It was even more so because the grandfather was in a wheelchair and not well.

Finally, after suffering for two years, their mother passed away. The boys went to live with their grandparents on the father’s side. In time, the grandparents separated, and their father came and took the boys to live with him. Over the next few weeks the boys were completely neglected. A neighbor called Family Protection Service in our town. The boys were removed from the home and ordered to Casa De Mi Padre for their care and protection.

When they came to us they didn’t seem afraid; just needing someone to care. The boys were really easy to get to know. They warmed up to us quickly. The two older boys are very sweet and try to please. The youngest, Cristofer, 6yrs. has a bit of an ornery streak about him, but is doing much better. Abelino, 11yrs. is very soft hearted and respectful and Daniel, 8yrs is very loving and obedient. They are all a joy to have in our home. Please be praying for them that they will begin to understand the Gospel and choose to accept Christ.

Andrea, 10yrs. has been with us for three months. A few years ago her mother either gave her away or sold her to a woman. It depends on whose story you want to believe. She was treated as a house slave. The woman was very cruel to Andrea. Emotional abuse and “burning” physical abuse were not uncommon. Her body bears the scars of such incidents. When she arrived at Casa De Mi Padre, she was quiet and calm and she didn’t seem afraid. Over the next few days she opened up to receive our kindness, love, and attention. Day by day her countenance improved. She is now a sweet and bouncy little girl. She loves school and always completes her homework. She is very happy at Casa De Mi Padre. Please keep her in your prayers.

I would like to make an official introduction of the next two boys, Esau and Ricardo, even though they have been with us for quite a while. I did not want to introduce them because the government repeatedly told us the boys were quickly going to go with one of their grandparents or aunt. But a year later they are still with us. Esau and Ricardo were difficult when they came to Casa De Mi Padre. They were angry, emotionally confused, and often defiant. Their background history is sketchy at best. It is believed they are actually from another country and ended up coming to Guatemala with their mother and a boyfriend. The boyfriend is their father. Eventually their mother passed away under strange circumstances, and the boys were left with the father. Esau and Ricardo began to live with their father’s parents. Soon after, the father left them.

The boys, while living with their grandparents, were enrolled in school. Several of the teachers of the school noticed signs of physical abuse on the boys. In time it became very clear the boys were being abused and the authorities were called in. The boys were ordered to Casa De Mi Padre for their care and protection. The court has said the boys will probably be returned to their grandparents or an aunt in their birth country. For now, they are still with us. And so we will care for them and share the truth and love of Christ with them.



Shane Sanderson
Executive Director
Santa Cruz del Quiche Guatemala

Since those first difficult days the boys have seen incredible change. Esau, 7yrs, is very energetic and a quit ornery. But he is also very loving and enjoys helping any chance he can. Ricardo, 6yrs. was the hardest of the two boys. However he has become a very happy and sweet kid. He is opening up, becoming more gentle and sweeter by the day. We love them both and will continue to minister to them as long as the Lord allows. Pray for Esau and Ricardo, that the Sovereign Lord will protect them and cause them to come into a relationship with Jesus. These are just a few of our second generation children at Casa De Mi Padre.

This past month we also had a duet mission team spend time with us, board member Fawn Brents, and her life-long friend Joan Poffenbarger. The focus of their time with us, was to visit and reconnect with a few of our first generation transitional students. We were on the road quite a bit. It was very worthwhile. It was great to see our transitional students and their places of residence. We are now working on a new program to provide financial assistance for these older students who are completing their high school, university or vocational education. We want to try and help bridge the gap from adolescence to adulthood for their continued success. We will be telling you more about this program as it unfolds.

Construction Update: As of right now Casita (house) no. 1 is finished. The roof structure of Casita no. 2 is being completed and the finishing layer of exterior tile is going on. It looks great! We are ready to start the process of plastering the exterior of Casita no. 2. Our projected cost for this is \$6500. We will continue as the Lord provides. Please pray with us on 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 groups large or small. 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, choose General Mission Trip or Construction Missions. To hold a date for your group, just email Shane at: crshane2010@gmail.com.

Full-time Missions Opportunities: We are seeking a single person or a married couple who believe they have the calling of God to minister to and disciple our transitional students. The opportunities to help these young adults navigate these challenging years and Biblically disciple them, are endless. If you or someone you know, 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.

It is our continual heart's desire to fulfill the calling God has placed upon our lives to be the refuge and shield for our children who have lost all. They need to know, "His ways are perfect and the Word of Lord is flawless".

In His Love,

Love
Shane
Joseph Shane Sanderson

We are honored and
thankful for your faith and
love towards the children
the Lord has given us.