

April 2022



Dear Family and Friends,

“ . . . His brothers pulled Joseph up out of the cistern and sold him for twenty shekels of silver . . . ”

Genesis 37:28

Returning to Casa De Mi Padre from town I am almost always greeted with a few “hellos” and hugs. When I have been gone to the capitol for a day or two, there is always a huge hug line. The last time I returned from a shopping trip in the capitol city, while I was giving and receiving a wonderful welcome, I noticed our newest little girl in the line for her first time. Coming up to me she reached out and pulled me close and held on tight. It surprised me. She had only just arrived a few days ago and we had not had much interaction. I could sense the deep need in her heart for affection. It made me wonder what had happened in her life that made her need for attention so strong.

Imagine living in a place where your basic needs of food and clothing are not met. No birthday celebrations, no one ever says “I love you” or provides any affection. You only exist for the work you can provide. Imagine the hurt of being sent away to a strange place where there is no family relation. Imagine the sense of disconnection, confusion, and abandonment a six-year-old girl would feel, all the while knowing, you’ve been sold.

After being sold, Andrea’s situation did not improve. She had been purchased for 7,000 Quetzales (\$921). She lived and worked with a woman she would call her aunt. In time, for whatever reason, the woman became physically abusive and began to harm Andrea.

We have only pieces of her story. The fresh wounds and scars on her hands and body provide clear evidence of the validity of her abuse. One of her explanations for the marks on her hand, was especially disturbing for me. She was asked how she received the scars on her hands. She responded, “It was my job to wash the dishes in the house. If I broke one of the dishes, the punishment my “Aunt” would give me, was to take one of the broken pieces and cut my hand.” The woman did many other strange acts of abuse as well. Eventually, the police were called in by an anonymous person. The child was removed from the home, sent to the childrens’ judge and ordered to Casa De Mi Padre for her care and protection. We will give her more than this. We will care, protect, and love her with the tender affection of Christ and share with her the story of Jesus and His love. Please pray with us for Andrea. Pray to the Lord that He will reveal himself through His word and our actions, for His glory.

We are always happy when our older kids who have grown up with us continue to make good decisions and choose to follow the Lord. This is always our hope. But the reality is, a few of the older kids have chosen to go their own way and often times have had a difficult time. One of these kids is Gerson. After he turned 18 he was in our transition program. Gerson lived with a family for a while until the family began to have trouble. He also went a little astray during this time. But he wanted to try to do better. Cole and Sarah welcomed him into their home. Cole is our Operations Supervisor at Casa De Mi Padre. Gerson would be working and trying to finish up his high school education. Things seemed to go well in the beginning. But over time, he became uninterested in his education. He wanted to live with some other people. Since he was a young adult, it was up to him. We continued helping him with his education. Gerson became interested in a young lady. In time, Gerson no longer wanted to be in school and began making some seriously wrong decisions. We had to let him go from our program. It was a rough time for Gerson and for Cole. We had done all we could.

Over the next year Gerson’s life continued to spiral. In time the family of the young girl had enough of him. Over the next few months, Gerson struggled. As the next year came around, he realized he needed to stabilize his life and make better decisions. Over that year he reentered the relationship with the young lady. However they ended up living together in her parent’s home. All the while, Gerson knew he was not living right before the Lord. Often times he would talk with Cole. Cole would always encouraged him to make things right with the Lord. If this young lady was the right one, he needed to marry her and build a life together with the Lord at the center. Over time, Gerson and the young lady began to attend a local church. Gerson knew this was right. While attending Gerson would feel convicted and knew he needed to make some decisions. We continued to pray for him. It was all we could do, but God’s power was at work.

This past week Gerson called me and wanted to come by. He said he had something to ask me. I said, “sure.” Gerson stopped by the next afternoon. We sat on the front porch and talked a while. He said he had some things he wanted to tell me. I said, “let’s have it.” He said he has knew he was not 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 the best thing to do. It is difficult for the Lord



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to bless your life when you are living apart from his word and will.” Gerson believes she is the right one for him. Then he said he had another question for me. I said, “I’m listening.” “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 said, “I will be there. It would be an honor for me to be with you.”

Then Gerson had one more request. He asked, “If it is possible, is there any way, the children of Casa De Mi Padre could come to my wedding? I would be very happy.” I said, “Well, since you are trying to make things right in your life, I think it would be fine.” Gerson stood up and reached out to embrace me and I returned the embrace. His smile said it all. We are the only family of his childhood he has ever known. We are looking forward to their special day. Pray for Gerson to continue his journey back to the Lord. This is a huge step. I believe the Lord will bless his decision.

MINISTRY NEEDS:

Andrea: She will need all the things a little girl needs. She will also need some medical attention which we will have to cover. She will need loving Child Sponsors to help meet her future needs on a monthly basis. If you would like to become a “Be There” Child Sponsor for her, let me know and I will set it up. Email me at crshane2010@gmail.com. Consider “Being There” for Andrea! Please let me know! It is just \$30 a month.

Construction: Our building project continues to march forward. The front yard of Casita No. 1 is being cleaned up and sod is being installed. I should have the finished pictures next month. This is a super Praise the Lord! Casita No. 2 is almost ready for the roof project. Thank the Lord we have the funds already earmarked for this.

We are still praying to raise the funds for the foundation of Casita No. 3. Our financial target is \$23,000. So far we have \$7,000. We need the remaining \$16,000 so we can contract the work and get the foundation in before rainy season.

Casa De Mi Padre Staff Needs: We need several churches to come alongside to help us legally take care of our staff. For years we have been paying well below the minimum wage. We desire to make this right, but we still have some work to do. The cost of a legally paid staff member is \$575 per month. We still have an additional \$2,000 a month to have this need fully met. Please pray with us and share this with your pastor or church leader if you feel led.

Prayer Letter Production Staff: Finally, our current family and friends who produce and mail our physical prayer letter and picture page would like to retire. We are in need of a family, Sunday School Class, or lady’s group, who would serve alongside us. Would you, or someone you know be willing to step up and fill these shoes? Please contact me at crshane2010@gmail.com. If you have questions, please let me know. This is a wonderful ministry opportunity. Don’t miss out.

The morning the government arrived with Andrea I was there at Casa De Mi Padre. When the gate bell rang, I went to open the walk-through door, I said to Andrea, “Welcome Home.” Our hope is, this will be a giant turning point in her life. As Joseph said to his brothers, “You meant evil against me; but God meant it for good ...” Pray with us, that even though Andrea was rejected by her family and sold into servitude, she would come to fully know that the shed blood of Christ on the cross he has paid the price to buy her back and place her in the family of God. Pray for a miracle in her life.

Praying for these things,

Love
Shane
Joseph Shane Sanderson

Thank you again for
being such an important
part of our service
here in Guatemala.
We Love You!