

Departures and Differences

Hello Everyone!

Happy February! And if you're a KC Chiefs Fan, then I'm sure your February has been extra special and exciting already! While the first few days of this month have already been fun-filled and exciting, I want to recap on the month of January and talk about some of the changes that happened here in Casa De Mi Padre. School started once again, we had two of the teens transition out, and we also had two children leave our home. It was a big month of adjustments in our home but through it all, we trusted in God's sovereignty and providence.

Regarding the two teens who moved out, we were so excited to watch them step into adulthood and spread their wings. Even so, it was difficult to have to say goodbye and watch them leave the home they have grown up in. Ruben has gone to live in the city of Xela where he works in a shirt factory all day during the week. He then



goes to seminary on Friday nights and on Saturday's he is finishing his high school degree. On Sunday he spends a lot of time in ministry and is being mentored by the evangelist that he lives with. Fermina also graduated out and after much prayer and thought, decided to stay here in Quiche. She goes to school every day and then comes back to Casa during the afternoons and weekends to help us with the little girls. She is a great help, and all of the girls look up to her and are so happy to still have her in their lives.

We also had to say goodbye to two of our other children within the span of one week. Our last one to leave us was Juana Alicia. We all knew from the start that she would probably not be with us long. She had a good family outside of our home that loved her and would be able to take care of her. She spoke very highly of this aunt and uncle and had no fear of going to live with them. We were honestly very happy that she would have a good stable environment to go back to. Unfortunately, after all of the other recent departures, it was very hard to see her go. And although I kept saying that I was "prepared" for her to leave, nothing could have prepared me for that weepy, tearful hug goodbye. It was also hard to prepare for her leaving when her uncle showed up out of the blue with an order from the judge to take her home. There was no warning. One minute she was there eating lunch at the table across from me, telling me about her day at school, and by the next hour she was walking across the threshold, suitcase and backpack in hand leaving with her uncle. She wasn't sad to be going with her family, but she sure was sad to be leaving all of us, and the feeling was mutual. She was the sweetest, most gentle-natured little girl I have ever met. She always had a precious smile on her face and just wanted hugs, kisses, and love. Although we all miss her dearly, we are praying that her aunt and uncle are truly a good familial situation for her and taking good care of her.

Six days before Juana Alicia left our home, we had 2 court cases. One was for her (her uncle did not show up due to the inability to





leave work that day, which is why she ended up staying an extra 6 days until he appeared with the court order) and the other was for Elias. As I stated before, we were all prepared for Alicia to leave our home. We knew it would happen and we were as ready as we could be for that situation to pass. We were also so sure that Elias would be staying in our home. He came to us severely beaten and abused. He was covered in marks and scars, some fresh and some old. He was very hardened and strong at first. He didn't open up to us until a few days of living with us. But once he opened up and showed us his true personality, wow! What a kid. He was truly unique.

Elias was one of the smallest kids in our home, but that didn't seem to bother him. He had such a big personality and would never back down from anyone. He loved to copy anything anyone was saying, it was like having a little parrot around! He would also try to mimic people's voices and actions just to make it that much funnier (it was really hilarious to hear him attempt English phrases). He was so witty and always had a comeback or funny remark for anything and could make anybody laugh at any point in time. Whenever he would make one of the big boys mad, they would start to argue and almost always, Elias would win the argument only because the big kid would start laughing! You just couldn't help yourself around him. All of the kids loved Elias and his goofy personality, and it was very hard on all of us to see him go.



The day of his court case Cole and Alex went to represent our home and they presented all of the evidence of abuse, making a clear and strong case against why he should not return back with his abusive father. His father then told a story about how the abuse was a one-time thing and he will never do it again and he was very sorry (it was a lie; Elias had told us that the abuse was constant and severe). But the judge then sided with his father and the unbelievable decision was made to send Elias back home. When I showed up to Casa to say my goodbye and to help pack up Elias' things, he was weeping and wailing on his bed. He just kept begging us not to send him back with his father. It was so painful to see him in such despair and agony and to be so helpless. There was literally nothing that any of us could do. We finished packing him up and each of us were able to speak to him and say our goodbyes. We made it very clear that we are all praying for him and that God is in control of even this situation. We told him to be strong and to know that we will always be here for him if he ever needs a home. And with that, he was gone.



As much as I absolutely love my job and I love being here and working with children and sharing the gospel and love with them, having to say goodbye to them is one of the worst things. And even though each situation for the four departures were different, all of those goodbyes were difficult in their own way. It was so hard to watch Elias say goodbye to his friends at the school and walk away sobbing as he went back to live in a possibly abusive situation. As much as I knew that Alicia would be leaving us, it was so hard to see that little girl leave the friends she had made over the last five months in our home. And watching Ruben and Fermina grow up at Casa De Mi Padre over the last few years and then watching

them say their goodbyes to start the next chapters in their lives was very bittersweet. It is one of my least favorite parts of my job, but I also know that through all of the tears and sorrowful departures, the Lord is working and moving in those kids lives. He is sovereign through it all and I know He is in control. We are all praying for Elias and Alicia and praying that they are doing well and staying healthy in their new homes. We pray that their short time at Casa was meaningful and that they are now planting seeds in their new communities and their families for Jesus.

This last month we had another big change. School started again for the year! The kids are already buried in homework and projects, but they are working away and studying hard. Please keep them in your prayers as they continue to work hard and press on this school year. For a few of our kids, they will graduate at the end of this year. We are praying for them as they have a big amount of homework every day and will need to work even harder than most to continue to do well for this year in school.



I also am so excited and grateful to announce that I have my car and garage door!! I have been able to safely pull my car into the garage at night without having to get out into the street at night and undo a whole bunch of locks. I now just press a button, pull the car in, wait for the door to close, and then I am safely inside my home! Thank you all so much for your generous donations and prayers for this big ask of mine! It has already been so useful for ministry purposes with the children. I have taken a carful of kids to the doctor, picked up kids from school, and I have been able to run errands around town with the kids whenever they are in need of something. It has been such a blessing and I am extremely grateful and praising God!

I am also very excited to tell you all that even though I have only been living down here for 8 months now, I am very firm in my calling from the Lord and I know that He has called me to a life of missionary service to the children of Casa De Mi Padre. I plan on living down here long-term/permanently and am taking the proper steps to do so. When I went back to the United States in November I was able to obtain all of the necessary legal documents that I would need to apply for my Guatemalan Residency. The last step in this process is to get the Guatemalan documents I need and then take them to my lawyer in the Capitol. I have already gone forward in faith with this project and was able to pay for the documents and fees thus far. But to complete this next step, I need to raise about \$1,500. It will cost \$750 in legal fees, \$400 in fees at the embassy to present my application, \$50 to authenticate each passport I have (due to past events, I have 3 passports, so \$150 total) and then other fees include translating every document brought from the U.S. and immigration office fees. It is an expensive process but well worth it in the end. I know that this is where I am called to be and by having my residency it will making it much easier for me to live here.



Thank you all for your prayers, words of encouragement, and love during this last month. I know a lot of you saw Elias' departure posted on Facebook

and I was very grateful for your sweet words and prayers. I am so thankful for all that you do for me and the children here at Casa De Mi Padre! This month was tough, but we are praising God for his goodness and sovereignty and his plan for all of us. I am also praising him for the blessing of my ministry vehicle and the new safety of my home! I am so grateful for each and every one of you! Thank you!

-Sabrina Broste

<p><u>To Support by Mail:</u> Checks to: "Child Rescue" Memo: Sabrina Broste 35 Child Rescue 709 E. Hyde Park Ave. Saint Joseph, MO 64504</p>	<p><u>To Support Online:</u> Go to www.midlandministries.org Click on "Give Online" in the Menu Scroll down and Find "Sabrina Broste" Or use this shortcut: https://bit.ly/2YUQG6V</p>	<p><u>Automatic Monthly Support:</u> To set up, call Jon Henderson at Midland Ministries (816-238-4999)</p>
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