

August 2019

Dear Family and Friends,

"I have loved you with an everlasting love; I have drawn you with loving kindness."

Jeremiah 31:3b

One by one the prisoners were called to stand before the judge. After the charges against them were read, each one was asked a single question. "How do you plead, guilty or not guilty?" All the defendants I saw had someone stand with them. I remember one particular young man as he came and stood alone before the judge. From my viewpoint I could clearly see everything. He had a look of deep concern on his face. The young man's head was tipped downward, as the judge began to read the charges against him. Next the judge asked the fateful question. How do you plead, guilty or not guilty? The young man responded, "guilty." The judge asked, "Are you sure?" The prisoner responded, "Yes, your honor." "Then I must sentence you," the judge said. As the judge read the amount of jail time the defendant was to receive, I saw the young man's countenance collapse into even more sadness. And then the prisoner was led away to begin his sentence.

That incident has often made me wonder when each of us stands before God at the Great White Throne of Judgment as described in Revelation Chapter 20, what will the question be that God asks us. I am not so sure God will ask us if we are guilty or not guilty. The evidence is overwhelming for each of us, we are guilty. And God already knows whose names are written in the Book of Life. I believe God will ask a question and depending upon the answer, each one in his own heart will either condemn his soul or rejoice at the salvation God has brought about in his life. Years ago I heard a message from an old preacher. He stated on judgment day that God is only going to ask you one question.

Our desire at Casa De Mi Padre is to intentionally, each and every day, place the things of God front and center before the children we care for. We try to include God in their lives through morning and evening devotions, church involvement, character instruction, Bible quizzing, youth retreats, evangelism, Christian videos, books, testimonies, music, and daily conversation. A couple times a week I have the privilege to give the evening devotion to the kids. Recently, I gave the devotion on the topic of what question God will ask you on judgment day. We read in Jeremiah where the scripture says, "I have loved you with an everlasting love." I had the kids quote John 3:16 where John writes that God gave us a magnificent gift because he loved us so much. Our part is if we truly recognized the gift, received it, and live like we have it.

In the devotional I told the kids about the message I had heard from the old preacher who told what he thought would be God's question for each of us on judgment day. The question he suggested was this, "Did you believe that I loved you?" Before you answer the question for yourself, think about how deep the question really is. Think about how God's love was shown to us in Christ. Why was his love shown in this way? Think of the question in light of how deep our spiritual needs really are?

If you answer yes to the question, "Did you believe that I loved you?" what is the proof you have really believed. What should your response be to such love? I remember the little song I sang as a child, "If you are saved and you know it, say amen! If you are saved and you know it, then your life will surely show it." The only reasonable response in the aftermath of God's amazing love is a life so effected it will ultimately bring only glory and praise to God. But for those who answer "No" from within their own heart, their rejection of what God has done for them will reflect the reality and fact they never saw the desperate need of their soul in the light of the reality that God IS love. Their judgement will be inevitable.

I asked one of our kids who has struggled accepting the Gospel, "Juanito, do you believe I have loved you?" With a solemn look on his face he nodded his head yes. I next asked him, "Has my love for you effected your life?" He again nodded yes. Next I asked him, "When you stand before God and He asks, "Did you believe that I loved you?" what will you say? A very serious look came upon his face. I next asked each of the kids, one at a time, the question God might ask them on that day. I wanted them to really think about it. Please pray for our children that they will each come to know and respond to God's love and the truth of their need for him.



As for other news, we are very happy to announce the addition of a full-time U. S. staff member, Sabrina Broste. Sabrina is from Raymore, Missouri, and is 22 years old. Last year she studied at Calvary Bible University. Sabrina has been a believer for 10 years and has been receiving Spanish lessons for over two years.

Sabrina felt called by God to serve him in a foreign country as a missionary at the age of 13. Sabrina said she has always had a special connection to Central America because her mother is from El Salvador. As Sabrina grew and entered her high school years the call she experience as a little girl seemed to dim. In her senior year of high school her health began to take a turn for the worse. After graduating she took a couple of years and worked at several jobs. Her health issues continued to be problematic. Next Sabrina took a path of least resistance and enrolled in college as so many of her friends had done, continuing to struggle with her health.

During this time in her life her mother had been to visit Casa De Mi Padre several times as an interpreter. She invited Sabrina. Sabrina's parents paid her way. During her first trip with us she fell in love with the children, and her health issues strangely did not manifest themselves while she was with us in Guatemala. Sabrina had it in her heart to return, and she did several times, earning the funds for her subsequent visits all by herself. Finally, she came on an extended stay internship and God calling her again as he had when she was a 13-year-old girl. After seeking advice from a dear friend, Sabrina took the advise and enrolled in several classes, including biblical counseling and continued taking her Spanish lessons. At the end of that year Sabrina knew with even more clarity she had been called by God and was confident she was now even better equipped to serve Him full-time at Casa De Mi Padre. We are very blessed to have Sabrina serving with us as a child care team member. To put it straight, she loves God and the kids, and they love her. That will work. We hope she is with us for a long time.

On the construction front, the new cistern has had the access cover installed and is collecting every drop that falls on the roof of our garage. It is lovely. Our men are finishing our parking area. It will be beautiful.

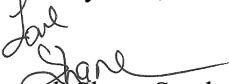
We are now ready to begin construction on our first children's cottage. We are only waiting on the structural plans. So we need God's people to pray for our architect and structural engineer to speedily get the plans done and we will begin. We are ready. One difficulty we did suffer was one of our workmen was involved a motorcycle accident. So, we have been helping him with his medical bills. Pray for Marlon's complete recovery soon.

We are also at the end of our summer missions group season. We want to thank everyone who came to serve with us and for all the help they brought. And, seeing our kids so happy, having made new friends and reconnecting to others is always a huge encouragement to me. And, in reality, I am probably the neediest one of all. Having my brothers and sisters in Christ come and lift me up and to see the Lord at work in their lives, blessing to me. And also the scores of Guatemalan people who heard the gospel and the many who responded is more than we could hope for. To God be the glory!

It is all proof that the Lord is reaching out through to our ministry, and our children. He is giving me personally a crystal clear display of His everlasting love that is as faithful and true as the sunrise. I certainly believe that God has loved me. Through all the various defeats, the trials and fires, God has proved His love to me in Christ.

Thank you for being such a big part of the father proving his love for us.

Loved by Him,


Joseph Shane Sanderson

*Please pray for the Lord
to be at work in our
Kids.*