



Cole and Sarah McCauley, missionaries

“Hmm...well I don’t think I would ever even want to visit a Latin American country,” I said to my brother as he told me about his upcoming trip to Peru, including details about not being able to drink tap water or brush your teeth with it, having to be really careful about what food you eat, and other things that seemed inconvenient to me as an average American. Funny to think that I made that comment just three years ago, and now here I am, the wife of a missionary living and raising a family in Guatemala! But God has a way of preparing us and opening our hearts to follow His leading, even if it takes us to unexpected places. In this letter, I’d like to share some of my journey over the last few years, some of my hopes and plans for serving the kids I minister to, and to ask for your prayers for God’s continued guidance.

Before marrying Cole and moving to Guatemala in January of 2018, I had worked for many years as a public-school orchestra teacher in a section of town with lots of kids from backgrounds of poverty and dysfunctional families. I enjoyed being able to share my love of music with the kids, but I soon realized that while music could brighten their day momentarily, the hurt, hopeless, and lost feelings that many of them expressed needed a deeper cure. As I was working on my master’s degree during that time, I did lots of research on an orchestra program in Venezuela that had successfully reached out to kids in slums, provided high quality training, and produced top-notch musicians. I implemented some of their techniques with my own students with some positive results, but I began to realize that what these kids really needed was a complete life and heart transformation, which only Christ can give. As a public-school teacher, though, I couldn’t talk freely to them about religious issues, topics that matter for eternity, or even answer some of the questions that they



would ask me. I remember one middle school boy suddenly asking, “What is the meaning of life?” Gradually, God was giving me a desire to spend my time and talents somewhere else. But where? The Christian school in town didn’t have any job openings at that time, so I started looking online for music teaching jobs in other Christian schools around the USA and abroad. During the year of 2016, I also did coursework so I could get certified to teach in Christian schools through the Association of Christian Schools International. The books I read and the lectures I heard confirmed and deepened my longing to be able to teach kids the truths of God along with whatever subject matter was being covered.

Then on New Year’s Day of 2017, a missionary visited my church and we chatted a little after the service about the kids we each worked with. It was Cole! I told him that I would pray for him and his work with the kids at the orphanage and I agreed with what he had said in his presentation about how Christ is the real answer to their troubled lives. He says he remembers me saying how I wanted to be able to help my poverty-stricken students, but couldn’t because of the job setting I was in and that I wanted to be able to help make an eternal difference in kids’ lives. Well, 2017 ended up being a whirlwind of God working in both of our lives! That spring, a music teaching job did open up at the Christian school in town, so I quit my public-school job at the end of the semester and worked the fall semester in a Christian setting. Cole and I got to know each other better, I went on a mission trip to Casa de Mi Padre in the summer (despite my earlier statement to my brother about not wanting to visit a Latin American country!), and we got engaged in the fall. God has so faithfully answered our prayers and been guiding us in our service to Him, our work with kids, our relationship with each other, and now our own little family! Praise God for His direction and for opening up opportunities where we can share the gospel and glorify Him!

While Cole gets to work full-time (50+ hours per week) at Casa de Mi Padre leading the staff and kids, my ministry contributions are a lot less clear cut at this time, since we have two babies for me to care for at our own house. Last year, I spent most of my time at home being a house parent for Gerson and Benito, two boys in the transitional program who used to live with us. The year before that, I went with Cole to work 5 days a week doing lots of office work for him and Shane, spending time with the kids, teaching music lessons, and taking Spanish lessons. I still do teach piano and violin lessons to the kids at Casa, although lockdowns due to Covid-19 have really messed up my ability to do this. There is so

Updates from previous letters...

Elias - Some of our staff were very concerned for him, so they put in a request for a local agency to go out and investigate about him. We visited awhile back and just weren’t sure; he was a very different Elias. Gaspar - Is still here working, not getting paid, but getting all his needs taken care of. Be praying for him; he’s always just been a rough and tough kid, hard to understand, not the most respectful, but we are doing our best to work with him.

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Psychologist -We found a lady who can work part time for us for about \$125 per month. Be praying for this funding need.

Social worker - We are still searching.

New couple - Since Shane moved out, we are searching for a couple who can live full time at Casa. Currently, there are a husband and wife who live there, but we need another couple, so they don’t have to bear all that weight and responsibility by themselves. Please be praying for our interview process and funding needs.

much research about how studying and practicing music can be beneficial to kids' brains, attitudes, abilities to focus, and interaction with others; I'm excited to be able to teach more and help the kids reap the benefits that God has given us through music. In the future, I would love to see some of the kids playing special music at church, leading worship, or even playing together as an orchestra. Right now, we have one keyboard and two violins; we are hoping and praying to be able to get more instruments so more kids can play together as a group.

Another way I am working to help the kids at Casa is by collecting books to make a small library for them. We don't have a public library in our town. Our area has a very low literacy rate of 64%, and the average amount of formal education for adults is a meager 4 years. Many of our kids arrive with little or no education. Our first priorities are to provide for their physical needs and to teach them the good news about Christ. Our next focus is to provide them with an education with the hope that it will help them break out of the cycle of poverty their families were in. I want to give the kids opportunities to grow academically by becoming better readers. By providing quality literature, true stories about good Christian role models, and other interesting books, we hope to supplement the teachings they receive at Casa, at school, and at church and to inspire them to live lives that honor God. We want them to use their hours of leisure profitably. There aren't very many book stores around here, so we sometimes order books from the USA. I've started a wishlist on Amazon.com if you are interested in helping purchase books in Spanish for us. When we go back to the USA, we can pick up the books and bring them back to Guatemala with us.

I continue to assist Cole in his ministry by doing work on the financial side of things and editing, formatting, and sending out prayer letters and thank you letters. Now that Cole has more responsibility directing staff and kids at Casa, I also am seeking to help him brainstorm ways to organize and structure training and devotions teaching for the kids. ***Pray that we will efficiently use the limited time that each child is under our care to clearly teach them God's truth, that they would understand God's love for them, and that they would trust in Christ as their Savior and Lord.***

Here at home I'm busy with Patrick (18 months) and Elizabeth (6 months). Even though they're pretty tiny, I'm already starting to prepare for their schooling! We are planning to homeschool so they get a solid foundation in English and may have the opportunity to go to college in the USA if God leads them to. Since shipping curriculum and books from the USA is really expensive, I want to get a head start figuring out what materials we should use. Right now, I'm leaning toward a Classical Christian approach which

emphasizes great literature and tailoring the teaching to capitalize on the learning strengths of children according to their developmental level: elementary school = facts, memorization, grammar; middle school = logic and arguments; high school = rhetoric and communicating ideas with others. One thing that really caught my eye about this approach is how it has the potential to train a child up in a way that they will be able to know the truths of the Bible from a young age, think and reason about issues from a Biblical worldview as an adolescent, and be able to share the gospel message convincingly with others as a young adult. As I'm looking at recommended reading lists and Bible training plans for my own kids, I'm thinking of ways that we could share this training with the kids at Casa. ***Be praying for me that I would have the same zeal for training the kids at Casa as I have for Patrick and Elizabeth and any other children we may have in the future.*** Speaking of which, we are expecting a new baby in January 2021! We are hoping to be able to have this baby delivered at a high-quality hospital in Guatemala City rather than having me go back to the USA for a few months like I did for our other two babies. Our hospital and medical facilities here in Quiché are not the best. We found a doctor at the hospital in Guatemala City who speaks English and says he will be happy to assist us in the birth!

So, in conclusion, as a teacher, missionary, and mother who wants to help guide the young people in my life toward Christ, I must keep in mind that every child is also a fallen human being and a sinner. The ultimate desire we as Christians have for all kids is that they will acknowledge they are sinners, believe in Jesus as their Savior, and be converted into new life. While this process is in God's hands, it is our responsibility as care givers and parents to discipline the children under our authority in such a way that they not only learn God's laws and expectations and that they establish righteous habits, but also that they sense God's love and grace, our love for them, and that only through faith in Christ will they ever be truly righteous in God's eyes. And while education is important in this process, I am reminded of a quote from Glenn Schultz's book *Kingdom Education*, "Too often man approaches education as a means of perfecting himself and, in essence, making himself his own god. Christians must never forget that education in any form can never perfect one single individual. Only salvation in Christ can perfect a person."

To Support by Mail:

Checks to "Child Rescue"
Memo: Cole McCauley
Child Rescue
709 E. Hyde Park Ave.
Saint Joseph, MO 64504



To Support Online:

Go to www.savingkids.net

Click on the "Give" tab
Scroll down to Cole McCauley

To set up automatic MONTHLY GIVING: Go to the online giving link or contact Jon Henderson (816-238-4999) or revjonhenderson@gmail.com at Midland Ministries.