



Child Rescue

CASA DE MI PADRE

May 2020

Dear Family and Friends,

“And the things you have heard me say in the presence of many witnesses, entrust to reliable men who will also be qualified to teach others.”

2 Timothy 2:2

As with every place on earth, the past few months have been chock full of changes for us at Casa De Mi Padre. At this time Guatemala is still in lock-down. Here it is becoming even more restrictive. As of now, we have been ordered by the president to stay in our homes from Friday to Sunday. You may only go to a small store from 8am to 11am. No type of motorized transportation can be used. Monday through Thursday, 9am to 4pm, you can go and purchase groceries but with no vehicle. That means I am down to wheelbarrows. There is a \$933.00 fine that can be given if one is caught not wearing a mask. In the capital city almost all businesses and stores have been closed for more than two months. All schools have also been closed.

At Casa De Mi Padre we have also seen many changes. The kids have been out of school, our church has been closed, and our schedule has totally changed. We have instituted home school in the mornings. Now the kids are doing online classes with their teachers. The kids love the online stuff. They are given lots of homework. The kids hate that. But they are still being educated.

We have also been able to spend lots of time with the kids. In the afternoons the kids have been playing lots of volleyball and basketball. In the evenings we have a few movie nights, Bingo night, Discovery channel night, and we throw in a few video game times in the afternoons and the evenings. The kids are also playing lots of board games. I was giving 4wheeler rides before the stricter lock-down rules were imposed. The kids loved that. So some good has come from the situation.

On the administration side of the ministry, we have taken this opportunity to make some changes. Since the corona virus has brought so much change, it has presented an opportunity for us to institute a few fundamental changes to begin to prepare the ministry for the future. The board of directors with my impute has made the decision to move my assistant, Cole McCauley, into a more prominent role within the ministry. Cole has served along side me for over five years. Seeing Cole's excellent administrative skills and his strong commitment to the ministry, we have decided to position him as the head program director and administrator over all house operations, child care, and oversight and training of all staffing functions. This means Cole will become completely responsible for all that goes on at Casa De Mi Padre. Cole has expressed a desire to be in leadership and has the work experience to do this. He also has a passion for training staff and directing them in how to best minister to our children. And just as important, Cole also has a love for the children God has given us and a level of compassion and wisdom that will serve our children well.

So the question then becomes, What will Papa Shane be doing? As the visionary, founder, and director, I must always be looking toward the future for the sake of the ministry and the children we serve. Here are a couple of realities we have at this time: Number one, I am approaching 60 years old. I do not have the energy I had when I was in my 20's when I began in youth ministry. Second, in the light of this it could be challenging for me physically, emotionally, and mentally to continue in the capacity I have held for the past 10 years. I have been on duty 24 hours a day for seven days a week, living on site at Casa De Mi Padre during this time. For the first five years, administratively speaking, it was a one-man show except for the Guatemalan help we had to help me care for the children. This arrangement had many great benefits, and I wouldn't have changed a thing. However, it has also taken toll on me as I have grown older. For the children who have grown up with us during this time, in their hearts, I will always be known as Papa Shane. Nothing will change that.

However, now I believe it is time, while I have time, to prepare for the future. A new generation of missionaries must be allowed to rise up and answer God's call in their time, and follow behind me. The only way for this to safely happen is to begin carefully, step-by-step, placing the full weight of the love, care, protection, and teaching of our children, upon the next generation's shoulders. The goal is for the new generation of missionaries to be prepared, tested, and fully capable to carry on the vision and work of the ministry of Child Rescue. I believe this is necessary and God ordained. I freely admit, this is not personally easy for me. One of the major changes for the children and me is I will no longer be living on site at Casa De Mi Padre. Cole and his staff will have to decide how best to fill my role. This is the only way for them to experience the full weight of responsibility they will one day have to carry. As mentioned, it has been difficult for me. The thought that our kids might feel like I have abandoned them makes me very sad. When we explained to the children what was going to happen it was a very difficult



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moment. The day I was to begin moving out my things, one of our younger boys, Yaser David, looked at me and said, “We can’t believe you are really moving.” The look in his eyes made me want to bawl. I put my arms around him and said, “I am not leaving, I will be here, I will just be sleeping down the street.” I spend time almost every day at Casa De Mi Padre, just like always. I want each of them to know I am still here. It has been a big adjustment for them as well as for me.

While I will still be a daily part of the kid’s lives, my role will be refocused on three areas: fundraising, missions groups, and construction supervision. As the ministry expands, continuing the care to our children, providing for our older children’s education, supervising the ongoing construction project of our new children’s home, and meeting the financial needs of all this, I will be busy. I have taken up residence in our mission’s house complex which is a five-minute walk from Casa De Mi Padre. One of the positive changes in this move is, I will be on site to better help with our mission groups. I will also be able to devote more time to the financial needs of the ministry and be more “hands on” at our construction project, which is becoming more critical as we begin to erect the buildings. Of course, I will be able still be able to spend time with our kids, the best part of the ministry. My goal is that at the age of 65 we will have the possibility of a full transition so the ministry can seamlessly move into the future. Of course, in my capacity of founder and director I still retain the ultimate oversight and directional responsibility for the ministry. It is a balancing act of trust, training, and direction, we must pursue.

One of the wonderful opportunities of the change is that I am able to have different groups of our kids come to the Mission House to spend an afternoon and evening with me. It has even been more special for the kids to come and stay here due to the corona virus lock-down. For them getting a night out from Casa De Mi Padre is pretty cool. I just hosted the big boys, ages 14 to 17 years old. They played soccer, spoons, and then we just had time to sit and enjoy one another. Our Bible study focused on the need of the lost sheep, the value of one coin, and the true longing of the lost son. It was fun. Papa Shane is the cook. And of course I spoil the kids a little.

Construction Update: We have raised the walls of the children’s cottage number 2 to five feet high. This was done so that during rainy season we will not be putting the foundation in ditches full of water. We have now turned our full attention to cottage number 1. We have the first stage of the plumbing and electrical work done, and the walls are fast approaching completion. Next, the concrete crown will be put on the top of the walls and then sections of the roof will be installed. Please keep this important part of the ministry in your prayers and giving. The financial commitment to continue this is huge. We are totally dependent and trusting in the Lord to carry on the work He has begun. The need is great.

More Prayer Needs: Please be in prayer for Cole as he takes on many new responsibilities and leads the staff. Please pray for me that I will continue to do all the Lord has in His heart and mind for me. We have recently experienced the cancelation of most of our mission groups who had signed up to come in 2020 to minister with us. Most of our child sponsors come from these groups of people who help us carry our kids financially. Also the funds the groups who come and bless our ministry with, have stopped. And yet, expenses of the equipment, housing, and maintenance of these facilities continues. Thankfully, the Lord has moved in the hearts of some very special people who are trying to help us with this situation. However, without the added funds and gifts mission groups provide, we will need to find ways to meet some of the children’s needs through what comes from the general budget.

We know it has been a very difficult time back home for many. We are trying to be cautious and responsible with all God has given us. Please pray for us. Consider what part the Lord would have for you in helping us continue to care for the kids God has entrusted to us. If at this time, you could help, we would be very grateful. Please pray for the Lord to continue to do great and mighty things in the lives of our children.

Knowing His change is always for our best,

Love
Shane
Joseph Shane Sanderson

*Thank you as always
for your kind and gracious
support and prayers.
We love you!*