

July 2018



Dear Family and Friends,

*"It was he who gave some to be apostles, some to be prophets, some to be evangelists, and some to be pastors and teachers, to prepare God's people for works of service, so that the body of Christ may be built up . . ."*

Ephesians 4: 11-12

"God spoke into my life in a very clear way . . . I learned to never make decisions based only on emotions unaccompanied by convictions." Pretty wise words from a 16 year old.

This past week we took the opportunity of spring break from school to send our older kids to a Bible intense youth retreat. One of the main themes this year was, "The Call of God." The Good Shepherd Center, directed by Roger and Vickie Grossman, host and produce the retreat. The teachers of the event are young adults who have grown up under the teaching and training of Roger and Vickie's ministry. Our kids very much love and respect these guys, Marco, Lois, Juanka, and Jose . Roger and Vickie taught several of the classes as well.

Each of the instructors has a different style but the Holy Spirit orchestrated the teaching to impact our kids in a very powerful way. One of our kids who was touched deeply was Ruben. Ruben is now 16 years old. He and his brother were living with their alcoholic parents. The mother was a nice drunk, but their father became very violent when he was drunk. It was normal when their father returned home from work for him to give them a beating. The boys never knew why. It terribly hurt them, both physically and emotionally. This is why they were taken from their home and placed with us at Casa De Mi Padre.

Their first days with us they were able to hide the scars and pain they had both received while living with their family. But in time these wounds and their effects surfaced. Ruben's past had made him extremely angry. It would often appear when he played soccer. Often times something would happen as a normal course of the game but it would end up coming to shoves and punches. I would get him in the office and he would begin to huff and puff displaying his rage even more.

Of course as needed we would deal with the infractions but also had to address the underlying issues of hurt and anger. It took a couple of years, but Ruben is much better and the angry outbursts have subsided. He is a joy to be around and is an even better soccer player.

The evening our older kids returned to Casa De Mi Padre from the retreat, I asked a couple of them if they would share what the Lord had done in their lives at youth group that night. They said, "Yes." After the games and worship music Fermina, Pedro David, Juanito, and Ruben shared what they had learned with the other kids.

Ruben explained, "God is calling everyone, maybe not to be a missionary, evangelist, or pastor, but God is calling each of us to be his disciples. We need to be transformed and obedient if we want to live the way God wants us to and do what he says. God was touching my heart, and I realized God was calling me. I want to respond to his calling." Ruben shared he felt God has called him to be a pastor. Ruben's testimony was with great conviction, sincerity, and passion. We shall trust this into God's hand and work towards its fulfillment. Praise the Lord! All the kids who went had a great time and learned a bunch. I am thankful we have these opportunities for our kids here in Guatemala.

### **Construction Update:**

On the construction front we have some very exciting news. This past week a gentleman called me to ask if he could help us on the land. His name is Walter Saavedra. He was referred to us by Norm Avery. Both of these men had worked for Wycliff Bible Translators in their construction department. However, Wycliff has just recently closed its construction department so Norm and Walter have had to join other ministries. Walter has yet to complete his transition.

Walter called me and asked if he could come and help us. I said, "Well Yeah." Next he explained to me his heart's desire for his future ministry is to go wherever the Lord would send him and use his talent, skills, and education to serve God. But he still needed a sending organization to host his ministry. He asked me for my opinion. I tried to help him define his calling and suggested what type of organizational structure to which he might align himself. I prayed with him over the phone and said goodbye. After the call, I put on some praise music to listen to as I was doing some paperwork. I started to think about our phone conversation. It took a while but I came to the thought that no matter what organizational affiliation Walter ends up with, the possibility his first ministry assignment might be as our Project Manager to see Casa De Mi Padre's new children's home become a reality. I thought and prayed about this for two days.



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After thinking through Walter's situation and the needs of our building project, I gave him a call. I stated that no matter which ministry he chose to be with, I believed it would be awesome if the Lord would give him our project as his first assignment. Walter responded, "I have been coming to the same conclusion for the past week." He said, "I am coming next week to help with the electrical work. We will talk more then." I said, "Super."

Walter came the following Wednesday. As we talked it became crystal clear. Walter is the man for the job. I officially extended the position to him, and he accepted. Walter is a licensed electrician and a degreed, accomplished architect with a lifetime of experience. He is Guatemalan and lives in Guatemala City. He has designed and built structures of all types in the US for twenty years. He speaks Spanish of course as well as English. And even more, he is a missionary raising his financial support so all his design work and help are at no cost to Child Rescue. We are so excited to have Walter now as our official Project Manager. He is incredibly talented and a strong believer and servant leader. He is "quality people." We are very thankful the Lord has answered this prayer as only he could. This will help take a huge burden off of me!

If we are going to keep building, we have to keep making known our financial needs for the construction projects. Right now we are putting in the floor of the shop, office, and storage areas of the garage. For now our office area will be used as a dorm for our workers. Several of them are living on the property because their homes are 18 hours away. They have been living in our storage shack, and it is very primitive. This will be a huge blessing for them. I am also excited to announce the garage has our first official bathroom on the property. However, it is not functional until we are able to install our sewer lines. We will need to raise the funds for this as well as the garage doors and windows. One thing at a time. In the next few weeks we hope to have the main garage bay concreted and electrical work complete. Much of this depends on the funds to purchase the materials. Please be in prayer the Lord will touch many hearts to help us keep going.

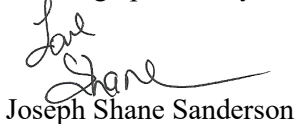
### **Education Needs:**

It is again time to begin to raise the funds for our upcoming school year. We have two needs. First, "The Gap Need." This is the difference between the tuition paid to the school and the actual costs to remain accredited by the Education Department and pay the rent on the property. The total GAP need this year is \$16,000.00. This represents \$125 per student for this coming year. We are giving our kids, as well as over 100 other lower income children, a good Christian-based education. I believe a solid Biblical foundation is priceless to the development of a child, especially the kids of Casa De Mi Padre. Please consider making a future investment in our kid's education or even consider sharing this need with a friend. Please mark any gifts toward this with the letters GAP on them which goes directly to the education fund. Second, is the need to rehire our deaf teacher to continue Mario's (our deaf child) education. The cost for the full year is \$3000. Mario has been learning well and will continue to need an interpreter for his education. Mario is a one-of-a-kind. To know what an unbelievably special joy he is you would just have to meet him. He is really indescribable.

I share these needs with you because I must. I share these needs not to burden anyone but to give the Body of Christ an opportunity to join and help. And in our children's case, to care for children "who have lost all, as well as help very poor children receive a Christian education. I share these needs to inspire others to pray and lift us up before the Lord so these needs will be met. It is all I can do.

As always thank you for your concern, love, and faithfulness first toward the Lord, and second toward us, as we do all we can do to make disciples for Christ and raise up mighty men and women for the Lord.

Building up the body,

  
Joseph Shane Sanderson

Thank you  
for praying and  
believing with us.  
Blessings in Christ