



## Cole and Sarah McCauley, missionaries in Guatemala

### Excerpts from our prayer letter in May 2019...

*After much prayer, much love not received, many corrections, and attempts to relate and show our care and love for him...After continued rebellion, after secretly jumping the security wall with barb wire to meet a girl, after much deception, after continued manipulation of other children to take blame of things he'd done, after the realization that he was trying to bring other children down, teaching them in contradiction of the things we teach... We arrived at a point we'd thought we would never have to face with one of the older children at Casa de mi Padre. Before making such a drastic decision, we cried out to our Sovereign, Compassionate, and All-Knowing Father in heaven, "Lord, if this is not your will, if you have other plans, if you know he would repent and turn from his sin and from these ways, please Lord, we need You to show us; please Father make it clear! We beg You! We don't want to act out of your will..."*



He continued to share that one day at the beginning of April he woke up and hated Shane, I, and the other staff. He said he hated everything about Casa de mi Padre and that he wanted to destroy what we were doing. He said he was so angry at God with what has happened in his life and that his parents don't want him. He said that he woke up wanting others to feel his pain. He said he knew it was wrong but it's how he felt... It was clear to me, and I shared with him that the Bible speaks to that very clearly. The things of this world hate the things of God. He was in a time of clear rebellion and would tell you that he wanted nothing to do with the things of God. Our home is completely based on the things of God: on teaching them, and praying and speaking them into the lives of every one of our children. He said he knew how much we loved him yet when he had woken up months before, he woke up with a hatred. For the first time in a while, I felt that he was being sincere. We sat and talked through it a while, and I let him know how much we love him, just not the choices he was making... I expressed compassion for what had happened in his family and reminded him of how we see him and what we desire for him... Honestly, friends, this was a very unusual thing that was going on, but I knew God was moving, so we continued to minister to him. I saw his hurting heart and that he sincerely did not want to feel that way. At that point, I knew God was not done with him! I told him honestly how I had been feeling and the prayers I had cried out to God. Then I told him how I was sure I had my answer: God is at work!!!

*Man, I tell you what... I haven't seen anything like this in my life. What a good God; what beautiful evidence of a long suffering, all-merciful God!!! Those excerpts were from our prayer letter in May of 2019. We had so much trouble with this young man over the years! He was so headstrong and rebellious. And at times this child was still pretty challenging even one year after God telling us that, yes, he was a mess, but He was not done with him yet. But little by little, God was transforming Antonio, our oldest child for the last year. In 2020, the most messed up year ever, God has been working out His perfect plan. Antonio has really changed for the good in 2020, an obvious maturity. He often looks back now and tells of how he was 2 years ago: he wanted to lead all the other children to rebel with him, and he was quite successful. We did our best to love on the kids and keep teaching, but it was a rough past two years with our older children. But praise our Sovereign Lord!!! Nothing is ever out of His control!!! O Righteous King, merciful Savior, Perfect Counselor, WE...WILL...PRAISE...YOU... ALL THE DAYS OF OUR LIFE!!! There is no one like You! Thank you, Father; Thank you!!!*

So, we will have to talk about this in another prayer letter, but we are pursuing a new format for our home which includes three Godly couples who help us take care of the children, as the children are split into smaller "families" while still being one large family together. (Not too uncommon here in Latin America). One of the couples is Pastor Brady and his wife Maria. He is a former pastor and the director and lead theologian at the extension of the

Guatemalan Baptist Seminary in the city of Xela (the second largest city in Guatemala). Since our older boys are in need of more reasoning rather than punishments (although those are still needed), and since this pastor was the pastor of a church here in Quiché that the kids attended for the first 5 years of our ministry, we felt that this couple would be best to work with our older boys. They have stepped in naturally and still have the same respect and leadership of our children they always had. After only one month and one week of their being here, Antonio had to have his wisdom teeth taken out and was unable to do strenuous work for 10 days. During this time of the year when school is out, our boys go to the construction site of the new Casa de Mi Padre and work four days a week. Since Antonio could not work, he would stay at the side of our child care staff and they often got into spiritual conversations. Soon after, Brady came to me and said he had great news. **He said that Antonio had gone to him and shared that he believed and has chosen to follow Christ!** Antonio said that he knew God was real and that he believed He died for his sins and he is ready to follow. He said that he knew there would be ups and downs, but he wants God. He is thankful for what He did on the cross, and he wants to follow Him. He then told Brady that he wanted to be baptized at the next chance! Hahaha, are you kidding me!!! I couldn't believe it!!! I always had faith that Antonio would come to surrender and follow Christ, but at the rate he was going, it was going to take a hard crash and a breaking of his pride and old ways. I thought

only an act of God could change that young man's heart! AND THAT IS EXACTLY WHAT HAPPENED!!! **This is nothing we could have done on our own; we are so thankful that God has used us and that He has led Pastor Brady to us!** God didn't just provide a child care worker; no, He provided the best, He provided someone who desires to love kids and raise strong Christians, pastors, and missionaries, which is right in line with our vision and goals for our children! O, praise You God! You are not doing a little thing here! You are doing a Glorious thing here!!! To You be the Glory, forever and ever!!! Man, I am so thankful for God's care over us and our mission! And it's not because we're missionaries; we are ordinary Christians doing what God has called us to in a different place. We have listened and are trying our best to follow His call to love others, seek Righteousness in all we do, speak truth boldly, share the good news, and make disciples!!! That is not a missionary call; it's a Christian call. So, we thank all of you who join us in praying for our kids and ministry, we thank all of you who give financially to provide for our children and all they need, and we thank all of you who share the Glorious work of what God is doing here. May God bless you, grow you, and found you even deeper in your union with Him!



### BAPTISMS AT CAMP!

So, this month at our annual summer camp (yes, we are in summer here in Guatemala!), in a year of uncertainty, a year where there was no help for summer camp from an American Mission's group (normally we have 20-25 Americans who come to help with camp), there was still work for God to do. He is not limited by human limitations. There were 49 kids in total, and it was a great and fun camp. **The third day of camp, Antonio and 4 other children from Casa de Mi Padre were baptized!** Wow, what a blessing, and what a great time to praise God for the gift of salvation!!! **The other children who decided to follow God in obedience were Carlos David, Reyna Isabel, David Yasser, and Andres.** Ask God to continue to intimately lead these kids! Antonio was for years a leader who led our children in bad, but we were praying for spiritual leaders in our home, and God miraculously saved Antonio and Juan in this last year. Now, we are in dire need of praying for our next set of spiritual leaders! We hope you take some time to reflect on what God is doing in the children of Casa de Mi Padre, and about His doings in your own life!!! Oh, what a good God we serve. I ask God to enlighten you this Christmas season to His fullness and beauty. I ask that He may fill you with hope through Christ in the reality that we will be with Him forever.

May He Show you how much He loves you and show you the purposes He has for your life, and may His spirit give you all knowledge, wisdom, and strength to carry out His purposes.

*Love in Christ, The McCauleys and the Kids of Casa*

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Checks to "Child Rescue"  
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