

May 2019



Dear Family and Friends,

“Rejoice, always, pray without ceasing, give thanks in all circumstances; for this is God’s will for you in Christ Jesus.”
I Thessalonians 5:16-18

People ask me all the time, “How are the kids doing?” This is a great question and very dear to my heart. But honestly it is a complicated question to answer. The truth is at any given point in time we have kids all over the spectrum. I am always tempted to smile and say, “They are all doing absolutely wonderful.” And thank God there are days most of them are doing well.

But there are those days when one, a couple, or several of our kids are struggling. Sometimes their struggle is based upon the pain, harm, and disappointment from the past. Each of our children has experienced some form of abandonment. Most of them were abandoned because their parents desired other things. Often the wrong actions of their parents are a result of an attempt to mask their own personal pain or discontentment in substance abuse. Other parents live in a cycle of violence. In their emotional turmoil and anger they begin lashing out at their children when in reality they are really clawing at their own souls. Other parents were drawn from relationship to broken relationship in a futile search for love and belonging. In their tangled pursuit to find love, often lustful, selfish desire takes control of passions and actions leaving in their wake broken promises and unfulfilled commitments. Unfortunately, children are often in the wake of such choices and they have to live with the fallout as a result. Each of our children has such a story, leaving them with some form of abandonment and brokenness.

Sometimes our kids struggle because of their own decisions and actions. They are desiring things that are not good for them and can become very hurtful, leading them in a dangerous direction. And more times than not, when confronted with such issues, they are less than honest as we try to help. And of course the struggle of getting along with others is a big part of what we have to monitor and correct. Sometimes their actions can really hurt one another, and we have to be diligent and active to help those who have been wronged and those who are doing the wrong. Normally there is a little wrong on both sides of an argument. It can really be tiring and tough to have the wisdom and strength to try to minister to the total needs of every child. But this is what we are called to do. Sometimes it can seem almost impossible to help because often we don’t know what the right course of action should be.

But thanks be to God we do have help from on high to aid us in such difficult situations. I believe help arrives from Heaven prompted by someone prayers. One of the most powerful kinds of help we receive is the unceasing prayer of God’s people. The Apostle Paul, when writing about prayer, instructs us to first of all, rejoice. When one begins prayer with rejoicing, he or she automatically begins by saying, “Thank You,” expressing a heart of gratitude for who God is, what he has done, and in faith, believe what he could do. Paul encourages us to pray unceasingly, without taking a breath. We are called to give thanks in all circumstances good and bad. And in the midst of our trials we are to rejoice. In difficult trials it is never easy to rejoice, be thankful, or pray in faith, but this is exactly what God’s will is for us in Christ Jesus. To successfully minister to the needs of our kids, we need an army of believers who will pray without ceasing for the children the Lord has entrusted to us. There is no way I could recount the number of times we have been at our wits end; bereft of what course of action we should take in a certain situation. And then out of the blue, the Lord brings about a change of heart or attitude in one of our kids. We have seen these miracles take place over and over. I believe they are a result of people praying and God answering.

I hope these thoughts will encourage you to recommit to pray for us as we serve, and for our kids as they grow. To pray unceasing. What would we have you pray for? First, pray for our kids. Pray for the salvation of each of our kids. Some have made commitments to the Lord that seem to be real, while others not so much. Pray for those who have trusted in God that they would grow deeper in the grace and knowledge of Christ. Pray for us as we care, train, and educate each of them. Pray they would remain with us as long as the Lord wants them to be with us. Pray for them to be delivered from their own passions and lusts and that they would be delivered from the evil one. Pray for the life-changing power of the Spirit of God to move, touch, and change our kids from the inside out in a way that only the Spirit of God is able. Pray the Lord would call them to the service he would have for each of them to bring glory to His name. Pray that each one could be healed from his or her hurtful past. Pray that when the time comes for them to transition from Casa De Mi Padre, the Lord would provide for them a place where they could continue to grow in the Lord and advance their education or career skills. Pray for the protection of our kids from harm and sickness. Pray without ceasing.

Second, Pray for God’s daily provision to meet our staff’s personal needs so we can continue serving and helping our kids. Pray we will have all that is needed to provide for our kids. I continually need wisdom to know how to meet each day’s



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challenges with the ministry, staff, and our ongoing construction project. We cannot survive unless believers like you who have the heart, take the time, and ask in faith for God's help; pray. We need praying people who will daily lift up our kids, by name, to the Lord. To help facilitate this we have a prayer page that includes the name and picture of each of our kids. Possibly you could committee to pray for a couple of the kids or a few of them on a daily basis. And if you are already doing this, keep up the great work! This will help us as we do our best to rear our kids well. I want to thank you in advance for your commitment to our ministry and for remembering our kids in prayer. I believe prayer changes things. Charles Spurgeon once said, "Prayer is the slender nerve that moves the muscle of omnipotence." And I believe it. Pray without ceasing!

Construction Project Update:

We are very close to completing Phase II of our children's home construction project. I want to list for you what we have accomplished so far.

Phase I: The Land Purchase. We acquired close to three acres of land.

Constructing a large retaining wall and grading of the property to give a level piece of land for the construction.

Secured front access to the property. This includes an access ramp and entryway.

Secured the front of the property. We have constructed front walls and a secure gate.

Secured the perimeter of the property. This includes totally fencing off the sides and rear of the property.

Bringing electricity to the property. We have a 10kW service at this time.

Digging a 300 ft. deep water well as one source of water for the property.

Phase II: Constructed a water control and drainage system for the entire property.

Constructed a sewer system to service six buildings including a 275ft deep sewer shaft.

Constructed the garage/shop/maintenance building. This building includes a shop, office area, auto maintenance pit, and equipment storage areas.

Constructed a water catching and channel system to harvest rain water from the garage roof.

Prepared and layed pavement block for our circle drive and access to the garage building.

Surveyed and plotted the property for correct placement of the living-space buildings.

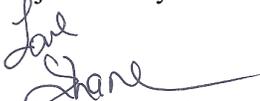
Building a 22,000 gallon water cistern to store and provide water year round for the property.

At this time we are within a few weeks of finishing the cistern. The final phases of our building project are to construct the living-space structures. In Phase III we plan to build four individual houses (casitas) to shelter up to eight children per house along with a Guatemalan married couple and their children. Each of these smaller houses will be totally functional for each "family" unit. Phase IV will be the construction of a large common house to be used for full ministry meetings and daily full ministry "family time" dinning and get-togethers. The common house will also be where American missionary groups and Guatemalan service organizations and churches can interact with our kids. This common house will also include living quarters for the director and his family.

So our next phase is to begin construction of the "casitas" or little houses. It is our plan to begin construction of the casitas as soon as the Lord provides the needed funds. As of the writing of this letter we have enough to finish the cistern and are contracting the service for the architectural drawings. We will also need some financial help to cover the design work. Please be in prayer for the Lord to provide for Phase III of the project. It is truly in His hands, and we can only trust Him.

Thank you for the unwavering support and love you express to us each month. Thank you for praying for us and our kids. We need the Lord's help moment by moment just as you do. Please take the time, use the prayer page, and pray without ceasing.

We rejoice always thinking of you,


Joseph Shane Sanderson

*Thank you for
caring and
praying.
Blessings
In
Christ*