

The Yielding of Year

I just want to start off by saying “thank you!” to everyone who wished me a happy birthday and made me feel so special! My 21st year was a year full of change and growth. It’s been a year of learning to depend on the Lord solely and dying to my own desires. In one short year I packed up my life and moved to a new country to care for 21 children. I have had to trust and lean on God so much this year, more than I ever have in my life. This last year I prayed, waited, and listened to Him to be sure of His call on my life. My goal for my 21st year was to glorify God with my life and use it to further His Kingdom. I feel that He has moved through me in the lives of others this year, and I’m thankful and humbled that he’s chosen me to be a part of spreading His perfect love. Now that another year has passed, I look to year 22 with hopefulness and excitement. And as I look back on year 21, I can’t help but think of the impact one-year can have.



Reyna and I on my Birthday.

Our children are proof of this impact, as their lives have been radically changed over the course of one 365-day cycle. They come to us with terrible pasts filled with neglect, abuse, and abandonment. Most of our kids did not go to school before they came to us and are very behind in their educations as their families did not make it a priority to give them an education. But when they come to Casa De Mi Padre, we make it our priority to help them succeed in school and to help change their lives for the better. We realize that it is a privilege and a special opportunity that our children go to school every day, and a Christian School no less! Because of the years they missed out on before they came to us, some of our children are many grades behind in school. For some, it is very difficult to track due dates and assignments due to developmental delays or attention deficits. Our goal is always to help our children succeed and try and give them the best future possible. Four of our children right now need special attention and help with their school work. Therefore, this last month I have taken on the additional responsibility of working one on one with these kids and helping them build their organizational skills.



For 2 of our older boys this next year of education is very important for their futures and will be very critical for pursuing their dreams. Both of them are 17-years-old and will turn 18 by this next February. Ruben, the next in line to reach adulthood, has made plans to transition out of our home and move to Xela (a big city a few hours away). He plans on working with a ministry there, continuing his education, and pursuing a career path. Ruben is one of the top students in our home, academically speaking. I often find him sitting at the dining room table working on homework well past the designated two hours of “homework time”. He works very hard and is a bright young man. Unfortunately, he is behind in his schooling because his family did not enroll him before he came to live with us. As a result, he is 17-years-old and trying to finish the 9th grade. This is

a really big accomplishment for him, and we are all so proud of how diligently he has worked for his education.

Due to some recent unfortunate events, Ruben was not able to attend school for 10 days and started to fall behind for this semester. By the time he went back to school he found out that all of his grades were below the passing level. He was crushed and felt hopeless and did not know what to do. This is where I was able to step in and help him. I talked with the school and advocated for him. I was able to get him a 5-day extension to make up all of the homework he had missed, and we started working on organizing Ruben's assignments and helping him focus on his tasks. I helped with the menial tasks of cutting out pictures and decorating on the bigger projects as he worked on the important aspects of each project. By the end of the deadline, he had finished and turned in 15 days' worth of homework and was able to bring his grades back up!

Gallego is the second young man who will be transitioning. His future plans include going into the Guatemalan military and becoming a soldier. This is something he has wanted to do since the day I met him. Here in Quiche there is a military school called Hall, but to enter there you have to have completed the 7th grade. Well, as you can probably guess where I am going with this, Gallego is working on finishing the 7th grade right now. He is very smart and hardworking but lacks organization skills and motivation. I was already assigned to work with him and a few other children one-on-one to bring their grades back up and to get them organized. But just as what happened with Ruben, Gallego was not able to attend school for quite a few days as well. He worked very hard and we were able to get him organized with an agenda, and by the grace of God he completed all of his work by the deadline and will hopefully pass this year of school!



This year will make a big difference in the lives of these boys. They both have very bright futures ahead of them and are working hard to make those dreams realities. My goal in fulfilling this new responsibility that I have, is to help them as much as I possibly can to succeed. We want to help them receive the education that was not given to them as young children. Part of my job here is to help the children with their school work and be the "homework helper". This now includes going to the school at least once a week to meet with the teachers and to check in with our students. If any of our children are not able to attend school, it is my responsibility to personally get their homework. When the children come home and work on homework for 2 hours after lunch, I help Gallego, Ruben, Panchito, and Brenda to make sure that all four of them are organized, on task, and working hard to accomplish their goals.

My prayer is that in one year these kids will look back and realize how important their education is. I pray that they will all have passed and moved on to the next step in their life and

can continue working hard and diligently accomplishing great things in their futures. I am so grateful that I get to be down here and be a part of these children's education and future. I love seeing the different ways God has been using me down here to meet their needs. I want to thank all of you for your prayers and support! Because of you, these children will be able to pass this year of school and continue on with bigger and better things.

I am still \$540 short on my monthly support and am hoping to get some more people to join my team! If you would like to be a part of what God is doing down here in the lives of the children of Casa De Mi Padre, please click on the link below to sign up to be a monthly donor. Any amount helps so much. Thank you all for your prayers, your encouragement, and your support! I could not be doing what I do down here without the support of people like you!

Also, will you please join me in praying for the children here at Casa De Mi Padre. Next week they start their final exams for the quarter and for some of them, their entire grade is resting heavily on these tests. Please pray that they continue to study hard and work diligently towards their education! -Sabrina



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