



October 2018

Dear Family and Friends,

“He is good; his love endures forever.”

II Chronicles 7:36

“He told me he’d changed. I could see something was different in his eyes. His eyes used to be darting back and forth and be filled with anxiety, but the anxiety is gone. He is changed.”

I can not say how many calls we have received from different sources asking if we have room in our home to receive one, two, or three children or an older teenager. A lot goes through my mind every time we are contacted. There are many factors to be considered. Of course, space availability is the obvious. But not so obvious is the need to keep the ministry balance of helping those in need vs. truly having the ability to fully help those we already have. Another significant factor is the background of the child needing a home. Sometimes the background facts are difficult or impossible to fully discover.

Four month ago we received such a call. This time it was from another institution. Normally when we receive an inquiry from another children’s home it is because there have been problems. Sometimes the problems can be severe. Often even a good institution may feel they have no more options but to remove a child from the home. This was the case with Jeshua and Andres. I have written about their coming to Casa De Mi Padre in past letters. After weighing all the options, I made the decision and said yes. When they came into our home they were difficult to deal with and very disruptive to our other children. This type of situation is emotionally taxing on me as well. But with God’s help, people praying, and lots of instruction, patience, and discipline, the boys have gotten much better. Another way we help the kids is to produce a Saturday night youth event which includes games, fun, and a biblical message or teaching. Jeshua has responded well during these events to try to make things right with the Lord. We have seen many positive changes in him. His younger brother, not as much.

Three months after they arrived they had their first court appearance. I met their mother, grandmother, and great grandmother for the first time. The mother was nice but seemed a detached. The grandmother was very nice and seemed very reasonable. At first the ladies spent a few minutes with the boys. I didn’t hear the conversations. Next we, the adults, were called into the court room. The judge asked the mother and grandmother what their situation was. They stated that they were unable to take care of the boys because they had to work so much. They also said they had a very difficult time controlling them.

The judge took the next few moments to lecture the mother on having children out of wedlock and the responsibility she has to raise them. It was all true but it was too little too late. Finally, the judge asked for my thoughts. I began by saying the responsibility of the court is to do what is ultimately best for the children. I told the court in my opinion the mother, grandmother, and great grandmother are no longer able to control the boys. If they are returned to them, the boys will revert to doing whatever they want by force or manipulation and end up back on the streets. I concluded by saying the situation will worsen as the boys grow older and become physically stronger. The judge asked me how they were doing with us. I said when they came they were out of control, but now they are doing much better and are in school. Next the judge sent us out to hear what the boys had to say. After a few minutes later, we were called back in. The judge told the ladies they must change whatever they have to be able to receive the boys in three months. So the judge ordered they remain with us for three more months.

After the decision was given me, we went to the secretary’s office to receive our paperwork. The grandmother began talking to me. She said she could see how good it had been for Jeshua to be at Casa De Mi Padre. She said, “When we talked with them downstairs Jeshua said he had changed. He told me, “I have God in my life now.” The grandmother said she knew something was different about him. She said she could see it in his eyes. I asked her what she meant. She said, “His eyes were always darting and filled with anxiety, but that is gone. He has changed.” I said, “Well it is the Lord.” It seemed like everything was going to be all right; but that wasn’t to last.

As the boys were saying goodbye to the mother and grandmother, Andres began to cry. As we exited the court building Andres saw his great grandmother and really began to cry and get forceful. As his mother and I began to take him to my truck, Andres went absolutely berserk. He began screaming in the street and would not walk with us. His mother, grandmother, and I tried to talk with him but to no avail. He went completely crazy screaming and falling on the sidewalk fighting with us. It took 30 minutes to get him in the car. He continued to scream and say crazy things.



While we were struggling to get him to the vehicle everyone on the street was watching. One woman seeing how distressed Andres was, came up to us and asked us if he would like a coke, which she handed us. It was a nice gesture as he was clawing and screaming. I almost thought I should put him on my shoulder and take him back to the court building and tell them we cannot help him. The whole time Jeshua stood by telling his brother to stop. I asked Jeshua if he did this at home. He answered, "only when he doesn't get what he wants." The ride home was tense but we finally made it home that night.

Several weeks have passed and Andres has not displayed that type of behavior again. As for Jeshua, his improvement has been dramatic. He had a second battery of tests at school and we were all shocked at how high his scores were. Even though he is years behind in school he is now doing great. He still has his rough edges, but we have seen much improvement.

This last Saturday night's youth event, my assistant, Cole McCauley, gave his personal testimony which is filled with several of the same things Jeshua had been involved in. Cole recounted how the Lord had reached him. As Cole concluded his message, I stepped up to offer the kids a time of response. I had the kids bow their heads and answer a simple question. "If God has touched your heart to receive Christ or come and confess sin you have been involved in, please raise your hand. Several hands when up. I then asked those who had raised their hands to look up at me. Several kids looked at me. When Jeshua raised his head and looked at me, tears were rolling down his cheeks. The look on his face was of a broken heart. I had the kids go and pray with Cole. Jeshua went to pray. Others came to pray as well. It was a beautiful night. We are hoping and praying for continued improvement in the two boys.

As for other news this month, it is graduation time for eight of our kids. Cristina is graduating out of our school, Case De Sabiduria, while the other kids are finishing middle school. In January Cristina will be enrolling in another school that offers high school and career level classes. It will be a big step for her.

Construction News: We are continuing working on the shop/garage. We had our dear friends down, Mike and Karen, to minister to the kids and help with the construction. Mike helped us lay the main sewer lines for the property. And now our men are building manholes for the system. We are also praying to finish the electrical system in the building. We still need a couple of electricians to come and help us finish. We are also trying to prepare for the garage door people to be able to come. We are still short some of the funds to meet this need. We need lots of continued pray for this.

Education Needs: We are still trusting the Lord to provide for the GAP need for the coming year's education budget. As of now we still need \$8965 to be ready for our new school year is January. This remains a critical need.

Finally, **Christmas is coming**, And we are getting ready to put the Christmas Kid Celebration together for our kids here at Casa De Mi Padre. We would love to offer you a chance to join in. Consider a Christmas Kid adoption of \$100.00 or purchase a gift for one of our kids. Our normal child sponsorships do not provide for this. If you are already a Child Sponsor, you might want to consider helping your child in this way. Just write a check to Child Rescue and send it to Christmas Kid, 709 E. Hyde Park, St. Joseph, MO 64504. If you want to send a purchased gift to a specific child, send it to Christmas Kid with your child's name on it C/O Ryan Walker, 803 N. 36th Street, Suite C, St. Joseph, MO 64506. Contact Liz at essmith4381@gmail.com or call her at (816) 520-3196 to see what the kids need. This is a wonderful opportunity to really bless our children.

Even with all the challenges I am reminded the Lord is good and his love endures forever. God has certainly used Jeshua's life to remind me He is good and He is able. Your love, concern, and care are also an ever-present reminder the Lord is good and his love endures forever. Thank you.

Because He is so good,
Loul
Shane
Joseph Shane Sanderson

*We are thankful
You have been such
a big part of our lives.*