



Child Rescue

CASA DE MI PADRE

February 2025

“When I am afraid, I put my trust in you.” Psalm 56:3

Sometimes we all have to do difficult things. Today is one of those days. One of our children is having reconstructive foot surgery today. The process began two years ago.

Tomas came to us when he was 11 years old. He lived with his mother and stepfather. At that time he was not in school. His mother and stepfather would send him to the city market to sell face masks. The Covid pandemic was at full force. Unfortunately, there were days Tomas didn't sell enough. When this happened Tomas would receive beatings from his stepfather. Sometimes his mother would do the same. The episodes became known to neighbors and the authorities removed Tomas from the home and he came to Casa De Mi Padre.

When Tomas came to Casa De Mi Padre he was pretty scared. From day one it was clear he had been neglected. He also had trouble walking, could not run, and had great difficulty climbing stairs. Looking at his feet, one could see there was some kind of deformity. We knew we needed to try and see what could be done. We began to investigate. In time we found a doctor in Guatemala City who worked with these types of problems. After an examination, the doctor informed us the problem Tomas had was a genetic disease that had caused him to have clubfoot. He also said that it was a progressive disease. The defect caused the feet to develop improperly, limiting their function and control. Children with this condition end up walking on the sides of their feet. The doctor said he could do surgery and it would help Tomas walk better. But, he also said the disease would continue to progress and damage his ability of movement. We opted for the surgery to be done in Guatemala City. The surgery went well with no complications. Once he was healed Tomas could walk better, but we were concerned the disease would cause more problems.

A short time later, Jim and Anne Carter, dear friends of the ministry who know Tomas well asked me if I thought it would be a good idea to get Tomas to a Shriners Children's Hospital. This would provide him with the best care possible. I responded, “I don't know how to do that.” They said they would work on it. That was two years ago. The process took many miracles to make happen; vaccinations, visas, lawyers, medical exams, with government interactions down to the last minute before we were to board the plane. By the grace of God we finally got all the approvals. Another miracle happened when we had our first conference call with the doctor who would do the surgery. I told him about all the doctors in Guatemala who said Tomas' condition was genetic and would continue to deteriorate even if surgery was done. The doctor from Shriners Hospital asked us for a full MRI of Tomas' spinal cord so he could make his own determination. The Lord provided for the scan. We sent it to the Shriners doctor in Greenville, South Carolina. Viewing the results, Dr Westberry informed us that Tomas' condition was a birth defect that would not reoccur. This was wonderful news and we were headed to the US!

On January 30 Tomas had the surgery. Dr. Westberry said it went very well. We were relieved. Tomas did well that afternoon and evening. However, at 2:00 AM, when the nerve block medication wore off it was a rough night for Tomas. Thankfully by morning his pain was under control. So now we begin a two month process of recovery. Pray for God's hand in all of this.

Construction Update: We are moving forward on the Common House! The first floor walls continue to go up and will soon be halfway completed. Once this is done we will sign a second contract to continue the walls to their full height. We are very excited with this progress. It is imperative we continue to move forward. In December we had some prospective buyers tour the old Casa De Mi Padre home. They made it clear to the owners they wanted to buy the property. They say they will wait until we were are out. We hope that's true.

I want to thank everyone who has made Tomas' surgery a priority in prayer and giving. Tomas still has a long way to go. I believe it is appropriate at this time to share another need Tomas could use your help with. Our Child Sponsor program helps us meet the “immediate care needs” of each of our children. These needs include, food, clothing, personal care, and normal medical expenses. A Child Sponsor helps financially by committing to support one of our children for \$35 per month. It takes six sponsors for each child to meet this category of need. At this time, Tomas only has two sponsors. If you would like to join us to become part of our Child Sponsor Team to help Tomas or another one of our children, simply email our Child Sponsor Coordinator, Annie Carter at: casachildsponsorship@gmail.com. We can't do this without you!

Trusting in Him at all times,
Shane