

May 2025

As I sat in the circle surrounded by the children who first came to Casa De Mi Padre, and now are grown adults, I was amazed at who they have become. All of them came to us after being removed from family situations where some had experienced literal torture, abandonment, physical abuse, hunger, and devastating poverty. Others chose to run away from the harm, hurt and rejection. But, thank the Lord it was wonderful having them all together again at our homecoming celebration.

Once a year a dear friend of the ministry, Fawn Brents comes to Guatemala and helps produce a “Homecoming Dinner” for all of our grown kids. We had 30 in attendance. It was a joyful time to see them all together! The next event we produce is a special three day retreat for our adult children who are in our Advance Continuing Education program or who continue to be active with the ministry. The retreat involves a destination getaway, lots of fun, food, and Biblical themed teaching. This year our theme of the retreat was “Goals for Success.” Our study focused on using goal setting to experience positive changes in their lives. There were four areas of success we looked at, Personal Life, Spiritual Goals, Family Relationships, and finally, Career Goals. We used Biblical truths to “Make a Plan” to see improvement in each of the four categories. Step one is to seek the Lord in study and prayer to ask God what goals he would have for you. After teaching the scriptural concepts, we gave the kids 30 minutes to come up with just one career goal they believe the Lord gave them. It was neat to see how enthusiastically they were to think through and write down their goals.

When we called the kids back together, they seemed excited. Fawn began to go around the room and asked each one to share the goal the Lord had given them. For instance, Walter said he felt like the goal the Lord has given him is to one day have his own auto mechanic shop. After each of our young adults gave their one career goal, Fawn would ask, “Papa Shane why do you believe they can achieve that goal?” In Walter’s case I answered the question by saying, “I know Walter can do that, and here is why.” I preceded to share a story about Walter that the others in the group didn’t know. At the beginning of the school year Walter, who is in our Advanced Continuing Education program, asked me if he could take some business classes. Since he had finished up his trade school classes in auto mechanics, I said, “of course you can.” The challenge came when he informed his boss he would need Saturdays off to go to the university for these additional classes. His boss responded with, “Your job is a six days a week, ten hours a day job. Sorry.” Walter was sad to hear this.

However the next morning, Walter’s boss talked to him and told him that he had rethought his situation. He told Walter not only would he be able to take Saturdays off, he was going to raise his pay as well. I asked the group, “Why did Walter’s boss change his mind?” I said it was because Walter had for the past two years been a faithful, hardworking employee. His boss realized Walter is too valuable to let him go. Looking straight at Walter I said, “That is why I believe one day Walter will own his own auto mechanic shop.” Walter looked back at me with an ear to ear smile.

Next, Gerson and Ceci, one of our married couples, shared that their goal was to open a little store. Fawn asked the question again, “Papa Shane why do you believe Gerson and Ceci can one day have that little store?” I said, “I know they can do it. Many of you may not know this, but two years ago Gerson committed to and worked hard to build his wife a small house they could own, and he did it.” I continued, “They are in a new church and regularly meeting with their pastor. They truly love the Lord and each other.” I showed a photo I had taken that afternoon and passed it around to the group. I said, “Now that is a picture of what real success looks like. That’s why I believe in their dream of starting a little store, the Lord will help them do it.” Reyna shared she needed to recommit and refocus to complete her final two years of school to acquire her Nurses Assistant certificate. Carlos David has the dream of one day having his own graphic and design company. Over and over, each one shared his and her goal and I shared stories that showed they had the character to do it. Often, several other young adults would chime in to give beautiful words of encouragement. One of our girls began to cry as the others were sharing that they believed in her. Our time together made for a very special weekend.

Construction Update: We are moving at full steam ahead. We are finishing Phase 2.2. This includes the Common House walls and completing the first floor. We still need \$15,000 to finish paying for this phase. Then we will be ready to move to Phase 3.1 which includes a concrete crown on the top of the walls of the first floor, and the concrete beams throughout. Phase 3.1 total cost is \$29500.

Please join us in asking the Lord to meet these needs. If you would like to help by check please note on the memo line Common House Construction. To help online, copy and paste this link: <https://shorturl.at/GNnik> in your browser search bar.

Thank you for all your love for our children and commitment to our work.

With much love,

Shane

To give by mail write to: Child Rescue 11201 Parallel Parkway, Kansas City, KS 66109
Or go online at givetocasa.com. Venmo is also available.