



## Cole and Sarah McCauley, your hands and feet for the orphaned

### *The Father of the Fatherless*

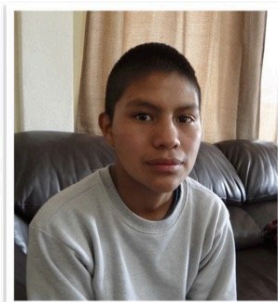
*"Father of the fatherless and protector of widows is God in his holy habitation.*

*God settles the solitary in a home..." Psalm 68:5-6*

Dear brothers and sisters,

Nearly a year ago, we wrote a prayer letter about Gerson and Ceci, centered on this glorious truth: **God is the Father of the fatherless. He sets the solitary in families.** At that time, we were reflecting on Gerson's story.

When Gerson first came to Casa de mi Padre, he was the oldest boy ever to enter our home. He was 14 years old, and unlike many of the children who come to us with at least some known relatives, Gerson 'was one of the truly fatherless. He did not know his family. No one came looking for him. He carried that pain deeply. From time to time, the sorrow would rise up in him again. About every few months, he would come and say, "I'm sad." When we asked what was wrong, he would say, "Nobody wants me. No one has ever come to look for me."



Gerson's first day at Casa de mi Padre

How do you answer that kind of pain?

We would remind him again and again: "Gerson, we want you. We love you. We are here for you. We are not leaving you. And God has great purposes for your life." But even with all the love we could give, that was still a heavy burden for a young man to carry. And yet, over time, the Lord began to show His kindness in such a beautiful way.

God brought Gerson a precious young woman named Ceci, a woman who loves the Lord. They were married, and Gerson was welcomed into a family that truly wanted him. Even more remarkable, Ceci's mother had also been an orphan. The Lord, in His tender providence, placed Gerson into a family that could understand pain and extend real love.



Ceci's father and mother worked hard and were able to give each of their grown children a small piece of land. Gerson and Ceci were given land of their own, and they were able to build a home. In fact, though Ceci is the youngest in her family and Gerson came from such deep lack, the Lord provided for them in such a way that they now have the biggest home in the family. It was a testimony to us all: **God cares for the fatherless.** He is not absent. He is not careless. He is a good Father.

But then something happened that we will never forget.

The very same day I finished recording that prayer letter about Gerson's story, and within minutes of turning off the recording, Gerson called me. He said, "Hola, Papá." And then the first thing out of his mouth was: "I'm sad." I was stunned. I asked him what was wrong, and through the conversation he told me that he and Ceci had been trying to have children, but they were unable to. We walked with them through that sorrow. We wept with them. We encouraged them. We sought medical help for them. Eventually, the doctors told them that they would not be able to have children. That news was painful. There is no way around that. But I told Gerson then what I still believe now: this was not random. The timing of that phone call, right after that prayer letter, was no accident. God was at work. I told him, "Gerson, I do not know all that the Lord is doing, but I know He is doing something. Whether He gives you children someday or whether He calls you to care for children in another way, God has not changed. His goodness has not changed. His purposes have not changed. You must love Him, trust Him, and follow Him with all your heart."

We kept praying. Many of you prayed with us too. And during this same season, it became increasingly clear that the Lord was doing a deeper work in Gerson's heart. He became involved in a Biblically sound church. He began to grow in the Word. As we listened to him talk about sermons

and spiritual things, it became clear: this was not mere outward change. The Lord had opened his eyes. There was real life, real hunger, real gratitude, real faith. It was a joy to watch. Then, in the Lord's providence, another door opened. Gerson and Ceci told us that they wanted to serve as house parents at Casa de mi Padre. What a stunning thing for God to do.

The boy who once said, "Nobody wants me," now desires to become a father figure to children who carry similar wounds.

For the past several months, we have been counseling them, training them, and inviting them into different activities with the children so they can begin to understand more fully what this calling requires. At the beginning of this year, they officially began serving with us in a training role. If the Lord continues to confirm this path, they will become the third couple to lead one of the homes once our construction project on the new property is ready. Right now they are learning, observing, and preparing. Gerson is especially learning from René, who serves as father in the boys' home, seeing what it means to love sacrificially, lead with conviction, and shepherd children with tenderness and strength. Ceci is also learning what it looks like to nurture, guide, and pour herself out in love.

#### **Please pray for Gerson and Ceci:**

Pray that God would sustain their hearts.  
Pray that He would give them hope and joy.  
Pray that He would mold them into the spiritual father and mother He desires them to be for these children.  
Pray that He would continue to bless them and anchor them deeply in Christ.

#### **Please also pray for our other house parents.**

Pray for **René and Alejandra**, who began serving as house parents for the boys in January, that they would continue to be examples of Christlike love, patience, wisdom, and leadership as they model before Gerson and Ceci what it means to be "Mom and Pop" in a home.

Pray also for **Juan and Fermina** in the girls' home. We are so encouraged by their sacrifice. They entered marriage and ministry almost at the same time, and they have willingly given themselves to this demanding calling. Their schedule is not easy. They serve eleven days at a time, twenty-four hours a day, before getting three days off. That is no small thing for a young couple. And yet they have stepped into it with love and willingness.

We ask much of our staff. It is real sacrifice. But it is beautiful to see young men and women give their lives to love these children.

A few weeks ago, we all went camping together with the children. It was a sweet and joyful time. We played outside, chopped wood, ate hot dogs and s'mores, and slept in tents together. That evening, instead of our usual devotion, we spent time worshiping and praying. Anyone could pray, and anyone could ask for prayer. We prayed for different children. We prayed for our ministry, that God would keep us from drifting from His will. We prayed that He would raise up strong men and women of God from among these children, people who would love Him deeply and carry the gospel wherever He calls them.

Then Gerson prayed.

And it was one of the most moving moments I have seen in a long time. He prayed with sincerity and brokenness. He began thanking God for Casa de mi Padre. He thanked Him for the home, for the children, for the leadership, for the mercy He had shown him. He thanked God for allowing him to come back and love these children. Then, through tears, he began to repent. He asked God's forgiveness for the times when he had thought the Lord was not good while he was growing up in the home. He confessed how wrong he had been. He thanked God for giving him a wife, a home, a family, and now the opportunity to serve at Casa de mi Padre. He asked the Lord to help him become a strong and godly man who could lead these children well. And he prayed that the children in our home would have their eyes opened to see the blessings God has given them.

As I listened, the Lord impressed something deeply on my heart: **That is a prayer that I could never pray.**

It is a prayer Shane could never pray.

It is a prayer René could never pray.

It is a prayer my wife could never pray.

**Only Gerson could pray that prayer.**

Only a young man who lived through those sorrows in this home, and then came to see the goodness of God through them, could speak to these children in that way. And I believe the children felt it. The rest of us can tell them that God is good in their pain. Gerson can say it as someone who has lived it. What a mercy that God would do such a thing. He truly is the Father of the fatherless. He truly does set the solitary in families. And He is still writing stories of redemption right before our eyes. Thank you for praying with us, loving this ministry, and standing with these children.

WITH GRATITUDE IN CHRIST,  
THE MCCAULEYS AND THE KIDS OF CASA  
WE'LL TALK TO YA SOON!



## Praises for God's blessings

- **We celebrated a joyful Easter with our church!** What an honor to be able to introduce our kids to the amazing love and power of Jesus!



## Prayer requests

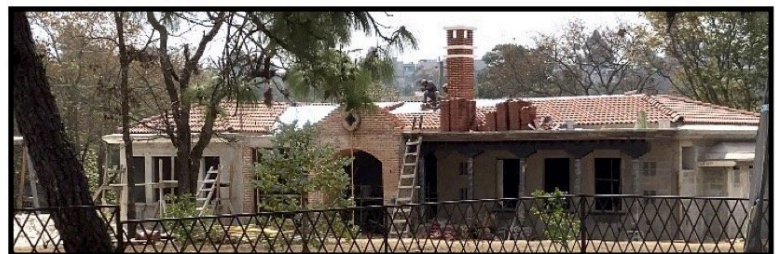
- Pray for all of our house parents: that the Lord would grant them patience, wisdom, and energy for their work with the children.
- Pray that our children in Casa de mi Padre and in the Advance Program would see the goodness of God, trust Him, and grow into strong men and women of Christ.
- Pray that the Lord would protect the health of our kids and staff. There have been several cases of measles in our city, and many people in our area have not been vaccinated.
- Pray for us during our upcoming trip to the USA! We pray that the Lord will be glorified as we proclaim how He is changing the lives of the young people in our care. Pray that others will be encouraged to be "on mission" in whatever God calls them.

## Giving opportunities

- **Transportation Need:** Our 2008 gray 17-passenger van has served faithfully for many years, but it is becoming increasingly difficult to keep it running. A

friend of Shane's has kindly offered a matching challenge and he is also putting the need out to his own support base; we currently have \$12,671. Thank you to those who have already donated to this need! Memo "van" on checks or select "Special Projects" for online giving and type "van" in the memo box.

- **Construction:** We thank the Lord that we were blessed by some generous donations this past month and can continue making good progress with construction! If you'd like to help out with this project, Memo "Construction" on checks or select "Construction" for online giving.



### To Support by Mail:

Checks to "Child Rescue"  
 If desired, memo Van or Construction  
 Mail to: Child Rescue  
 11201 Parallel Parkway  
 Kansas City, KS 66109



### To Support by credit card online:

Go to [www.savingkids.net](http://www.savingkids.net)  
 Click on "Give"

Consider selecting the Recurring option for automatic monthly giving

**Questions?** Contact our secretary in the USA at Maywood Community Church at 913-721-2760.  
 Child Rescue International, Inc is a 501(c)(3) organization.

# You're Invited

— TO AN EVENING OF —  
**HOPE & TRANSFORMATION**

*Sharing the Mission of Our Orphanage*



Cole and Sarah McCauley, directors, and Shane Sanderson, founder, invite you to come and hear stories of how lives are being changed and learn how YOU can make an impact in the lives of our children and the world!

Friday, May 15th at 7pm

Open Door Bible Church,  
Belton, MO

Saturday, May 16th at 7pm

Frederick Blvd. Baptist  
Church, St. Joseph, MO



**CASA DE MI PADRE**

Child Rescue International

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