

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

KEEP YOUR LIFE FREE FROM LOVE OF MONEY, AND BE CONTENT WITH WHAT YOU HAVE, FOR HE HAS SAID, "I WILL NEVER LEAVE YOU NOR FORSAKE YOU." - HEBREWS 13:5

She's always the top student in her class, a high achiever. She had tried hard to find a job for the past six months, and she finally landed one! Sure, she has to work 50 hours a week and only makes about \$1.00 per hour, but around here that's normal. Then, in her first week of training, they started teaching her how to forge documents...

The young adults who age out of our children's home have an uphill climb ahead of them. Many of them are a few years behind in their studies after being neglected as youngsters before they arrived at our door. And then, even when they do complete their high school equivalent, finding any job in our area is a challenge. Finding a good job is even harder. Guatemala does have a legal minimum wage (about \$1.75 per hour), but many employers don't even pay that. Despite working hard, often 6 days a week from 7am - 9pm, making a living in Guatemala is tough. A lot of people try to cope with this hard life by forgetting their problems temporarily through drugs or alcohol, which often lead to abuse and continued cycles of family troubles.

As we seek to raise the children of Casa de Mi Padre, we constantly pray for God to give us wisdom as we prepare them for the time when they will eventually leave our care. While academics are essential for the kids, preparing for a career in our ever changing world is no guarantee for a lifetime of success, joy, or fulfillment. Our most important and urgent calling is the spiritual formation of our young people. Our God is unchanging. A life surrendered to Him in this world is a sure guarantee for peace and joy now and into eternity! Regardless of how rich or poor believers may be or how tough life circumstances may be, God's love is enough to fill us to overflowing and give us an abundant life. He will never leave us.

Please pray for the young people in our program for the kids who age out of the orphanage and want to continue their education. Pray that they would find their joy and contentment in living for the Lord. Pray that they would finish their studies well. Pray that they would find employment in places that would be honoring to God. This year, we will have three of these young people living with our family: Sandra (moved in last month), Fermina (the girl described in the opening paragraph who's lived with us for two and half years), and Carlos David (he plans to move in in March). Four other young men just moved in with our founder Shane this month, and the remaining four young people in the program live with various other families or in other cities.

At our children's home, the school year started this week. Please pray that all the kids will study and learn their subjects well and that all of our staff will coordinate their efforts to nurture them in their knowledge and love of God. Pray for the Holy Spirit to work in the hearts of each child.

We are hosting an intern in our home for a couple of months. Jack just graduated from college and wanted to help us here for a while. He had come on a mission trip to Casa de Mi Padre 6 years ago; his eyes were opened to how differently Americans live compared to so many other people in poorer parts of the world. He minored in Spanish during college and is eager to start helping our ministry in any way possible. *Pray that his time here would be fruitful and that God will lead him in how He wants him to serve in His kingdom.* 

While the majority of our mission work is focused on caring for the kids in the orphanage and guiding the young adults who are continuing their educations, we



also try to share the love of Christ with other people in our area. One way we reach out is through our Bible Quizzing activities for teenagers. A young lady who has participated in Bible Quizzing for several years and lives across the road from Casa de Mi Padre, gave us an encouraging note about the impact we have had in her life and the life of her family. Although this young lady is very poor in terms of earthly goods and conveniences (we often see her washing her laundry by hand in front of the adobe hut where her family lives), the joy of the Lord is her strength and she is rich in grace and peace. We are including a translation of her note here:

In this day, I, Paulina, tell my story of how God is big and loving...

This story began when my family and I moved to live across the road in front of Casa de mi Padre; this was in the year 2016. After a few days of living there, Casa de mi padre invited me and my siblings to watch a movie. From this day, I knew who God was. They would talk to us about the word of God, and the word of God came into my heart. I started to know Papa Shane and Cole. They love us like the other children in the home. They often talk to us about God and take us to Bible schools. I love to go because they teach me the history of the Bible.

After a few years, my mother decided to accept God, and we all were baptized. After this, I had a desire in my heart to sing for God. I asked God if He could make a way. God heard me and gave me the privilege to sing in our church. Also, since 2019 I have started to participate in Bible Quizzing with Casa de mi Padre, and honestly, I love it very much. I love to memorize scriptures even though its not only about memorizing but putting into practice the love of God. This I learned from Cole.

Now I can also say that Cole has won my affection because I know that God, through Cole, has said that He loves me and that God is good. Through the council of Cole, God has helped. Cole is like a father to me.

I also thank very much Papa Shane and Cole for how good they have been to me because they have been my motivation to follow Christ, the same for my family. Lastly, I want to finish by saying God is good and loving, and He puts people in our lives to help us and motivate us and to continue on. He will never leave us or abandon us because He lifts us up and gives us new strength. This is my history of how God is great and loving.

Pray that we can continue to share the gospel with others who we may encounter and that we will be able to train even more disciples to spread the good news further afield. Thank you for your prayers and support of our mission work here in Guatemala. Through God's grace, you are helping us touch lives and give a future and a hope to the young people we serve as well as others in our part of the world. We'll talk to you soon!

Love in Christ, The McCauleys and the Kids of Casa

## Schedule for visiting the USA

We are starting to schedule times to speak and share about God's goodness and care; we hope to encourage listeners to seek God's will in their own lives and then to serve Him whole-heartedly. If you would like us to speak with your congregation, small group or at another venue, send us a message. We would love

to get together with you! Here are the dates we are planning to be in the USA:

> April16 - May 7 and July 23 - Aug. 13

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### God's Provision

We praise the Lord that we were able to pay the \$10,000 for the whole year's rent for the children's home for 2023; this gives us a discount compared to having to pay by month. We are thankful for God's provision and trust Him to continue giving us the resources to carry out the work He has prepared for us to do.



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# Praises for God's blessings in the last month

- That we can freely share the love of Christ with the children and young people of Casa de Mi Padre as well as other youth in the area through our Bible Quizzing program. We praise the Lord for helping change hearts and lives through our ministry efforts.
- We thank God for the new life and joy He has given Paulina and her family and for her encouraging words thanking us for how much our ministry has helped them.



- Pray for the young adults who age out of Casa de
  Mi Padre who we help as they continue their
  education, that they would find their joy and
  contentment in living for the Lord. Pray that they would finish their studies well. Pray that
  they would find employment in places that would be honoring to God.
- For the kids in the children's home as they start a new year of school this month. Please pray that all the kids will study and learn their subjects well and that all of our staff will coordinate their efforts to nurture them in their knowledge and love of God. Pray for the Holy Spirit to work in the hearts of each child.

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