



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

"A new commandment I give to you, that you love one another: just as I have loved you, you also are to love one another. By this all people will know that you are my disciples, if you have love for one another." ~John 13:34-35

Ooooooooooooooooooooo!!! Boy, have I got a beautiful and concerning story to share with you this month. In the midst of one of the most challenging and emotionally and physically trying times I've had here in our work, I was blessed with some of the sweetest words that I have been graced with by one of our newest family members.

I can't recall what morning it was, but we were called by the local government agency who oversees placement of children in children's homes, and we were told about the terrible abuses that she was a victim of at the hands of her step father and mother. There is no need to divulge all the details, but it was not good. When she came, she was tiny; at the age of 9 years old, she looked as if she were 6 or 7 years old. She had multiple medical problems relating to the abuses she suffered, and when she came, she looked exhausted, tired, and disconnected. As we tried to help her feel welcome and comfortable, she wasn't sure about us or if she could trust the things we were saying.

As her first day carried on, we got her cleaned up and showered, then we got her into some new clothing. Later on in the day, she started to warm up a little more and let me hold her in my arms. I'm not sure I can explain it, but just to sit and hold a child who's gone through what many of our children have is rich and beautiful. As I always do, we ended the evening as I lowered down to her eye level and let her know how grateful I am that she is with us. I let her know that she was going to be ok here, assuring her that she is loved and wanted. I always make sure that our new children know that it's my responsibility to make sure they are ok. I tell about many things that she gets to do in our home and some things that are not ok for her to do or for anyone else to do to her. I try to give the confidence that, whether a staff member or another child do any of the things that are not acceptable, then she can always come to me. I finish by expressing that we love her because our God loves her. I share our excitement to see what God has in store for her future. I normally end by asking if I can give a kiss on her forehead and embrace her in a hug. She accepted, but it's always kind of awkward as these signs of affection are foreign to some of our children who have suffered the most.

As the weeks and months flew by, we continued to love her, expressing much affection, and investing into her physical and emotional health, along with spiritual and academic education. She probably averaged anywhere from 4-12 hugs a day and even more kisses each day from me. After she had been loved on for a while, she would hold on and desire many hugs each day, which is pretty normal for our children. But what was abnormal was that she would hold your hand as she stood next to you, then she would kiss your hand, then kiss your wrist, and then hug and squeeze your hand, as if she was caring for her favorite stuffed animal. It seemed that she had so much affection showered upon her that she couldn't contain it.

One afternoon, all our older children were attending an Easter conference, so another staff member and I took the younger children to a nature park.

Ashley, our newest child



First day



Ashley now

We had fun, and at one point as we were walking along natural and comfortable, Ashley was holding my hand and hanging on my arm, after kissing my hand a couple times, she asked me, "Coley, why is it that I love you so much?" I don't really have anything to say as I sit here and look for the words to write; I just smile, shrug my shoulders, and put my hands out in awe. I can't express how precious it felt, but I did instantly know the answer! After stopping to give her a hug and a kiss, I informed her that I didn't always love this much. "At one time, I was a very selfish person, and I didn't love as I now love you and others. But one day, God revealed His reality to me and how much He loved and sacrificed for me, He filled me with His love and Holy Spirit, and now I want to express it to others. Now that I have showed you this love, it has filled you, and you now want to give it back to me. God has done this so that you continue to grow and eventually give this love to others who never knew it." We continued to play and have fun with everyone else that day, but almost daily I have been blessed and encouraged by that very sweet interaction.

Before we move on to other information, we have an **Urgent Prayer Request!!!** As mentioned before, we have been medically treating abuses that Ashley suffered, and the evening that we put this letter together I was informed that the doctor says Ashley's kidneys had not fully developed and that they are not functioning properly. We will be doing ongoing exams to see our best route of care for her. **Please pray** for Divine healing and for wise and diligent doctors for her.

What a joy it is to serve the Lord here in Guatemala. Thank all of you who join us in different ways. We love you, and we are honored to serve these children and now young adults of

Guatemala on your behalf. **Continue to constantly pray for us: anything you pray over your own families, friends, or children would be greatly appreciated.**

Don't forget that we also need about \$200,000 for each of the 2 family-sized houses as we continue to build the future Casa de Mi Padre. We are waiting on another estimate for the construction, but we did counter our first estimate, and the builder believes that he can build the home for \$192,000 although we will still need kitchen cabinets and house furnishings, so we are still estimating around \$200,000 to complete the home. So, look in your couches, sell your house, forgo sending your children to college, whatever you can do would be greatly appreciated. Obviously, I'm joking, but if you can help us with the building of our homes, you will be investing in many generations of lives changed. If you would like to get together and talk about it more, please reach out to us. We love you brothers and sisters. Take care! We'll talk to you soon!

In Christ,

The McCauleys and the kids of Casa



Birthday Gifts

We plan to take gifts back with us on May 14. You may order from our registry on Amazon and the gifts will be shipped to where we are staying in the USA. Search "Casa de Mi Padre," then select gift registry named "May 2024 Birthdays"

Construction Donations

Online donations:

Go to savingkids.net
Click on the "Give" tab
Select "Special Ministry Needs - McCauley"

Checks:

Send to the address to the right
Memo: "McCauley construction"

Special Mission Trip Invitation

July 8-15, 2024 ~ A special mission group opportunity for anyone from any church or any city who is interested in visiting and helping around Casa de Mi Padre.

To sign up or request more information, contact mission team leader Karen Blankenship, at karenblankenshiplive@gmail.com or 816-686-6573.

Other dates in 2024 are still open for mission groups to come and help with construction or to help around the children's home. You may even book ahead for 2025.

Contact our ministry's founder, Shane Sanderson at crshane2010@gmail.com for more details.

Visit our website and click on "Mission Trips" for more info.

To Support by Mail:

Checks to "Child Rescue-Cole McCauley"

Mail to: Child Rescue - Cole McCauley
11201 Parallel Parkway
Kansas City, KS 66109

To set up automatic **Monthly support**: Go to the online giving link or contact Maywood Community Church at 913-721-2760. We are a 501(c)(3) organization.



To Support by credit card online:

Go to www.savingkids.net
Click on the "Give" tab
Select **McCauley Ministry Fund**



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Praises for God's blessings in the last month

- **We traveled safely to the USA** Please continue to pray for safe travels and a fruitful time of proclaiming God's goodness during our trip.
- **All the kids performed their first piano recital this month.** They practiced hard and enjoyed sharing their music with each other and our staff by playing solos, duets, and even singing a little!
- **Ashley, our newest child at Casa de Mi Padre.** She is sensing the love of Christ and asking us questions about it. Pray for her to trust in Jesus.



Prayer requests

- **For health for Ashley:** her kidneys are not functioning well, and we are figuring out options for testing and treatments.

Giving opportunities

- **Gifts for kids with birthdays in May.** We plan to take gifts back with us on May 14. You may order from our registry on Amazon and the gifts will be shipped to where we are staying in the USA. Search "Casa de Mi Padre" for the gift registry named "May 2024 Birthdays"
- **The resources so we could build the last 2 family sized homes** on the property of the new Casa de Mi Padre! Each house is estimated to cost around \$200,000.

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