

May 2023



Dear Family and Friends,

“Let us not become weary in doing good, for at the proper time we will reap a harvest if we do not give up.”

Galatians 6:9

One of the greatest treasure one can have in this life is a Godly friend who endures. I am thankful I have had a few such friends. These kind of friends live great examples of what it means to follow Jesus. They are disciplined in the ways of the faith. They are encouraging, they listen to your point of view. They help keep one focused on the important things in life and help guide you in the right direction. They always look for the good in you. Having the Lord in common is the best part of this type of relationship.

In the early 1980's I was in college, at what is now called the University of Central Missouri. I had signed up for a class in office administration. When I walked into the classroom for the first time I noticed the professor was getting things on the podium ready. As class began it quickly became evident my new professor was a very kind person. He also had a dry sense of humor. I had no way of knowing how that morning would impact my life for the next 40 years.

I remember back in grade school when went to parent-teacher conferences and I would have to sit and listen to the teacher tell my mom how I was doing in the class. It was torture to me. Years later my mother informed me there were several times after the official conference the teacher would pull her aside and quietly tell her, “There have been many times Shane has disrupted the class. He makes the funniest comments and the whole class roars with laughter. The problem is, Shane’s jokes are so funny I have to laugh along.” I guess this talent or curse, followed me into college. My new professor of Office Administration must have really liked my jokes. I would come out with a wise crack and he would laugh harder than anyone. It made class a lot of fun. Over the course of the semester we talked several times. He was very pleasant. Over the next couple of years I would see Dr. Frazier in passing. He was always cordial.

After receiving my Bachelor of Science I went to work for a couple of years in the corporate world before returning to the university. I wanted to enter their Master of Business Administration, (MBA) program. But I needed a professor who would give me a recommendation. I decided to ask Dr. Frazier. He was more than happy to help me. He also personally put in a good word with the department chair and I was accepted. When classes had begun I decided to stop by Dr. Frazier’s office to say thanks for all his support and help to get me in the program. I remember walking in his office. He was seated at an L shaped desk. His desk had papers stacked almost a foot high across the front and down the side of the desk. I guessed they were papers he needed to grade. He seemed happy to see me. I thanked him for all his help in getting me in the MBA program. It was nice to visit and catch up with him. As I was leaving he asked me if I had had any lunch. He said he would buy. I said, “Well, no I haven’t.” He responded, “You are welcome to come along.” During those years I worked at a pizza place and my finances were pretty humble, so a nice lunch would have been really great. I accepted Dr. Frazier's invitation. I had a great time and several of the other professors were there as well. So the following Wednesday I came by a little before lunch and was invited to go along again. I made it a weekly visit. Dr. Frazier was always fun and kind. It was also great getting to know the other professors.

Over time I got to know Dr. Frazier very well. Three years passed and now I was getting ready to graduate. As chance would have it, Dr. Frazier was going to retire at the end of the semester and move back to where his parents lived. I invited Dr. Frazier to visit the Oak Grove Bible Church where my father was the pastor. Olin, (Dr. Frazier) loved it. My mom invited him over for lunch and he loved that too. At lunch Dad told Olin that the church needed a piano player. Olin had played the piano and organ at first Baptist Church of Warrensburg, MO for 30 years. He said he would do it. Since that first Sunday, Olin traveled over an hour every week and played the piano at church and ate Sunday dinner with my family. He did this for nearly 33 years.

Quickly after graduation I entered my first ministry opportunity with youth at Kansas City Youth for Christ. Olin decided to volunteer in my office and served right alongside me in our weekly youth outreach. Olin would call to invite kids, pick them up and drive them to our events, play his keyboard for worship, and counsel kids to receive Christ. I even got him into some crazy skits. It was amazing what this ex-college professor would do for the Lord. When I left for Guatemala in 2010 to start our children’s home, Olin continued to help me with our monthly newsletter until the end of 2022. Olin would receive my handwritten letter via email, enter it into the computer and we would email it back and forth for edits. Over the years Olin helped me produce 396 newsletters. Through those years Olin’s help in the ministry and friendship were invaluable to me.

Olin was a once-in-a-lifetime friend. I feel it is proper to honor such a man who has meant so much to me and who has served the Lord in so many ways. Olin was my faithful friend. Olin was a near perfect example of a life publicly and personally dictated to Christ. He was a fantastic listener, and an expert conversationalist no matter your age or education level. He was a gracious counselor, and a never ceasing encourager. He carried the heart of a humble servant. No task was beneath his desire to help.



Shane Sanderson
Executive Director
Santa Cruz del Quiche Guatemala

Olin was rich in the attributes of a disciple of Jesus. As long as I knew him he was the most disciplined daily reader of God's Word I had ever met. He was a relentless prayer warrior. He prayed for the children we served for years after they were no longer part of our ministry. He genuinely cared and loved the young people we ministered to. Olin was a giver. He generously gave of his time, talents, and sustenance. Olin, in 1989 became my first financial supporter when I entered the ministry. His monthly support was generous and faithful. When he made his decision to financially support me in ministry, he never faltered, not once. His kindness towards me, his encouragement, his desire to serve the Lord, and his example as a follower of Jesus are a great treasure I will always hold dear to my heart. Olin passed into the Lord's arms on March 27th, 2023 at 93 years old. I honor Christ for sharing Olin's life with me.

Other Ministry News: For the past three years we have been able to hold a special dinner and retreat for our adult children. The event is held over Semana Santa, Holy Week. In Guatemala this is their Easter celebration. The three days before Easter, all schools and most business are closed. It is an excellent time for our extended Casa De Mi Padre family to get together. We have a dear ministry friend who sponsors most of this event. The retreat begins with a special dinner that is open to any of our grown children who grew up at Casa De Mi Padre. The evening features a wonderful meal prepared by the kids. There is lots of conversation and laughter. This year small prizes were given out for different recognitions and everyone received a welcome gift. It is a way to reconnect with kids we haven't seen in a while. We always encourage and remind our young adults of the importance of following the Lord in their life. It is a wonderful homecoming time for all.


The second part of the retreat includes our young adults who are in our Advance program. This program includes our older kids who are meeting the requirements of the program and completing their high school education or have continued on to study at the university level. The Advance kids are eligible to travel with us for a destination retreat. We try to find a place where there are cultural and adventure settings to enjoy together. The mornings include a topic driven Bible class. In the evenings we finish the day with a devotional. The kids do the shopping, cooking, and clean up. They have a blast. It is a very meaningful time.

One of our grown children, Geovany, came to us 12 years ago, when he was 8-years-old. He had lived with his father and stepmother. His father was a very angry man. He often beat Geovany and his brother and sister. The stepmother was cruel to the children. She punished them by hitting them with a piece of wood on their feet, or not feeding them or letting them bathe. In time, the abuse worsened and Geovany's sister ran away. After a couple more beatings, Geovany and his brothers also ran away. In a few weeks the people they had been staying with took the children to the juvenile judge and said they could no longer take care of them. The children were ordered to Casa De Mi Padre. After growing up and now transiting out of Casa De Mi Padre, Geovany has finished high school and is in his first year at the university. This was Geovany's first time to attend the Advance retreat. During the evening devotions we have share time. Geovany in a rare moment spoke up and said, "I am normally pretty quiet and keep my thoughts to myself, but, I want to say this special time together has made me feel like I have a family." Since the retreat Geovany and I have had some very heartfelt conversations around the things of God. The Advance retreat was a wonderful blessing for Geovany and our other young adults. An investment well worth it.

Construction Update: We are now weeks away from completing casita no.2. As soon as it is done we will need to raise funds to furnish the house and then our girls will be able to move in. The girls are so excited. The next steps to finish the house, include raising funds for the PVC drop ceilings for the bedrooms and bathrooms. The material labor cost for this is \$2755.00. We also need is to raise funds for the living room ceiling. This need is \$2235.00 for materials and labor. Our third project is to purchase the windows, front doors, interior doors, and back security doors. The cost for materials and labor is \$7590. The final part of the home is the security window bars. The cost of labor and materials for this is \$3000.00. We wait on the Lord's provision. Pray with us for these need.

Personal Support Need: With the passing of my dear friend, Dr. Olin Frazier, I lost my best personal mission supporter. Olin provided over \$1000 monthly toward my personal support. He will be greatly missed in countless ways. With his passing, and recently several older supporters, we need the Lord to raise up a new generation of donors to meet the needs of our children and my personal support as well. Please pray and consider coming alongside me as a personal support team member. Please share this need with others who are committed to the cause of Christ through missions. Any monthly amount will help toward my personal support needs. I am eternally thankful for many faithful brothers and sisters in Christ who like Olin, have cared so deeply and given so much for the cause of Christ and enabled me to share Christ with the children the Lord has entrusted to us.

We believe we shall see a mighty harvest of souls.


Joseph Shane Sanderson

*I am thankful for your
continued faith and love
for me and our children.
We love you!*