

June 2025



“Tomas, are you dead?”

The new and improved Tomas is safely back home in Guatemala. Over his five month surgery and recovery, Tomas and I got to know each other more than ever. Tomas has always been a quiet kid. I guess that is what made it challenging for me to get to know him. Throughout our trip, I saw God touch Tomas’ life physically in a way that will help him every day for the rest of his life. I also witnessed the Lord touch his life in a way we believe has changed his life forever.

Tomas’ condition began while Tomas was in his mother’s womb. Tomas was born with a birth defect called clubfoot. The condition results from shortened tendons and muscles in the foot or ankle pulling the foot in abnormal positions and distorting the bones structural development. The condition left Tomas able to walk, however sometimes with great difficulty. Unfortunately, Tomas had a very challenging time with stairs and was unable to run or jump.

This past January Tomas and I traveled to Greenville South Carolina. We stayed at the Ronald McDonald House and Tomas received a full reconstructive surgery on his left foot at Shiners Hospital for Children. After the surgery, Shiners Hospital provided an excellent team of physical therapists. Tomas made incredible strides. The surgery and recovery went very well. After the recovery we were able to do some sight seeing before we headed back to Guatemala. It was fun. During the five months, Tomas and I did morning and evening devotions in the Scriptures. Toward the end of our trip we were working through the Book of John and we came upon the story of Nicodemus. When we read verse seven: “You should not be surprised at my saying, ‘You must be born again,’” a question came to my mind. “Why would a person need to be born again?” Here is a little background on Tomas. He has been with us for four years. He does all the things we offer in our home to encourage kids to have an understanding of the gospel. However, as far as we knew he had not made any visible move towards the Lord.

The question I asked Tomas during that morning’s devotion was this, “Tomas, why do you think Jesus would say you must be born again?” He thought a moment and answered, “I don’t know.” I responded, “I think the reason one would need to be born again is because they’re dead.” I told Tomas the Apostle Paul put it this way, “As for you, you were dead in your transgressions and sins,” Ephesians 2:1. I said, “Tomas, that’s why we need to be born again, because we’re dead.” I next asked, “Tomas, are you dead?” After a long silence he said, “I don’t know.” With a prayer we ended the devotion.

After breakfast we packed up and headed to the car. As we were walking I thought to myself, “I should have invited Tomas to receive Christ during our morning devotion. Because you never know what can happen out on the highway. In an instant everything can change.” I thought, “If something happened to Tomas, knowing I hadn’t asked him to put his faith in Jesus, I would be much more heartbroken than if I had not given him an opportunity.” As we sat in the car I said, “Tomas I need to ask you something. Do you remember our devotion this morning when I asked you if you were dead?” He nodded his head. I continued, “Tomas would you like to pray and put your faith in Jesus right now? I smiled and said nothing else and waited patiently for his response. There was a long thick silence. Tomas sat looking straight ahead. After about 2 1/2 minutes of silence he said, ‘Yes.’ I lead him in a prayer for salvation. It was a precious eternity changing moment!

Later that day we stopped by a historic park. In the gift shop I asked Tomas if he would like me to purchase a special journal book for him to write out his testimony of what happened to him earlier in the morning. He said he would. I said, “pick out anyone you want.” A couple of days later he told me he had written out his testimony. I thought it was interesting in Tomas’ recollection, he describes the “long silence” as being 10 minutes. What he wrote was to the point, yet very beautiful.

Construction Update: We have completed Phase 2.1 raising the walls. By July we will be ready for phase 3 on the Common House. Step 1 of Phase 3 will be to construct the “crown and beams.” The crown is a steel and concrete belt that sits on top of the walls to tie the building together as one unit. The concrete beams will be what supports the upper floors as well as part of the roof structure over the directors quarters. The cost for this step is \$29,500. This is the amount needed to continue working towards our vision of a paid-for-home for our children. Please pray with us on this need.

I am thankful for what the Lord has done in Tomas’ life these past several months. Please pray all our children will experience that special moment when the Gospel becomes real to each of them.

Love,

Shane

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