WHITE STONE MINISTRIES

Providing a loving, Christ-centered home for orphaned, abandoned and abused children.

CASA HOGAR EL CORAZON DE REY A.C.

CHILDREN'S HOME

JUNE - SEPTEMBER 2014

I want to tell you about a changed life.

I think we are all aware that each of us not only touch the lives of those around us most of the time or those that we have direct contact with in one form or another in either positive or negative ways. But many do not realize that their actions and acts of service actually touch the lives of many more that we do not know or see. Years ago I was given some very wise words. I was told that I should be careful to not be discouraged when it may look like what we do for the children seems to be of no avail, but rather take heart because what we do to minister to the children who are directly cared for by us, actually has much farther reaching effects. I was counseled to be encouraged that we are actually touching lives that we will not see or know anything about until we reach eternity. We have been excited and humbled to see that "ripple effect" in the lives of a few family members that have had children returned to them after a lengthy stay with us. In some instances we have seen parents hearts and minds changed by seeing the difference in their children and desiring the same change for themselves.

We have actually had DIF case workers asking how we do what we do and what our "Therapy Program" is. We repeatedly explain to them about how it is really the Lord Jesus that affects the change...we are simply the facilitators of His love and His grace. We explain that God created children to be raised in a loving home and that is what we endeavor to maintain for these children, so it is rocket science that living in our home brings healing and restoration to these hurting children.

There was one caseworker in particular that asked us on several occasions about how do we make the kids change so fast and we told her over and over again. Finally, there came a day when she had to step down from her position and she came to us and said…"ok, I am no longer a caseworker so you can tell me the truth...what are you REALLY doing? Oh...and I know you're going to tell me it is your God, but really...what are you doing?" We got a good laugh because all we could do just tell her one more time...it is Jesus!

I will say, we do try not to get discouraged when we don't see immediate change or maybe on the rare occasions that we see no change at all, but then there are times that we see AMAZING changes happen instantly and that is what I want to share with you.

I want to tell you about Maria. We have not included her photo due to privacy issues on the internet, and in a minute I believe you will understand why.

Maria is 17 and came to us because her mother went to DIF for help. Maria had been running the streets and had become involved with a cult called Santa Muerte...or Holy Death. You see, her mother was a Christian and had become quite ill. The doctors told the family she may not live. Maria saw her mother and her church family pray earnestly but her mother only got worse.

She was approached by someone in the Santa Muerte cult and was told that they could work their spells and her mother would be healed. So she joined up. After a short time her mother actually began to feel better and finally was completely healed. So Maria was convinced that this "Jesus" stuff was rubbish and she had truly found "the way". However, this involvement came with a price. She was pushed deep into drugs, alcohol and various perversion.

Her life was in a downward spiral, plummeting deeper and deeper into destruction and because her mother kept trying to pull her out of it, she became more and more hateful and rebellious to her mother. Finally her mother went to DIF and the DIF police picked her up and brought her to us. She let us know in no uncertain terms that she was going to make life for everyone in the home miserable, she wanted nothing to do with anything Christian and she wanted no visits from her mother since she now hated her. Our collective attitude was "Oh really???!!! Well we will just see about that."

The truth is, she didn't stand a chance! Jesus had her in His sights and was not letting go.

Just seven days later, she gave her heart to the Lord! It was one of the most dramatic changes I have ever witnessed in a young person. She was upset that her mother had not come to visit her but Anna reminded her that she told us she did not want to see her. So we called her mom and she came right over. When Maria saw her, the reunion was incredibly emotional. Maria went running to greet her mom then she dropped to her knees in front of her mom weeping and holding on to her legs, all the while begging her mom to forgive her. It was amazing.

Over the next few weeks the DIF caseworkers were astounded to see the change. They eventually said she could go home but she really didn't want to leave. So now Maria is actually employed by us as an intern...and she does amazing work, especially with the babies. Maria wears a big smile that is extremely infectious...you can not walk past her and not smile yourself when you see that huge grin on her face. I never see her without it!

We thank God for the incredible change in Maria's life...and guess what...the "ripple effect" has been remarkable. Her family has come together like never before, serving God and she has had a profound effect upon her extended family.

Jesus still changes lives!

We were blessed again by several of our regular visitors...**Phil Neighbors** and his team from San Angelo & also the team led by **Brent Richardson** from Houston. These folks are incredible blessings to us. Every time Phil comes, he takes some of our staff to the local grocery store and fills his van with supplies for our home. Brent and his team are a multi-faceted group. They fix, repair, clean and minister to the kids all at the same time. **David Iacona**, from Phil's regular "gang" spent several days with us helping with our internet and security camera issues. Thank you David! I really don't have the space here to express all that these amazing people do to bless and encourage us. They give their time, talent, money and most of all...their love. We are always looking forward to their next visit.

Our good friend "Abuelo" **Trey Hamilton** came to bless us with his carpentry skills but this time we were able ta surprise him with a birthday celebration. The kids have truly adopted him as "grandfather".

Dr. Gary & Cynthia Nussey have become regular visitors as well. Their ladies did some very creative crafts with the kids while Dr. Gary and the men did painting and putting together some much needed shelves for our playroom. Thank you again, DR. Nussey & team!

Joseph Cumberland & his youth group from Wade Baptist Church in Moss Point, MS. spent an entire week in Acuna. They did ministry projects all around Acuna during the week but found some time every day to minister to and to love on our kids. This is a tremendous group of young people and the staff leading them did an amazing job. Thank you guys...and we hope to see you again next Summer!

Property Purchase Update

Two weeks ago I sent out a letter to many of the folks on our mailing list who are friends and current financial partners with our ministry. I believe I need to reprint the letter in this newsletter as there are many folks who are not a part of our "White Stone Family" and did not receive the original letter, that need to be aware of our situation.

BUT FIRST...Before I repost the letter, I want to give our readers an update.

PRAISE THE LORD!!!... ***Several amazing folks have already responded to our letter, and we have received over $8000.00 in donations to be applied to the down payment and closing costs! At the time I mailed out the letter, we had approximately $6000.00 of the $65,000.00 necessary. Now we have passed the 20% mark and even more encouraged that we will indeed meet the December 31st deadline! We offer a profound THANK YOU to those who have blessed us thus far!***

Here is the original letter:

Greetings in the Name of the Lord!

I have a serious matter to share with our family of supports and financial partners that concerns our new property, and I pray you will take a few moments and read the following letter.

Please allow me to write a brief history especially for those who may be new supporters, of where we were, where we are right now, and where we are headed in the near future.

Anna and I started our ministry in Acuna in 2009. At that time, we had entered into a partnership agreement with a ministry that owned a building that was being used as an orphanage but was in serious trouble and was about to be closed by DIF (Mexico's Child Protective Services) because of the many problems in the Home. We convinced DIF to give us a chance to turn things around, which they did. Approximately one year later, the State Director of DIF did a surprise inspection. After spending the entire day investigating every aspect of our operation, they told us that they were extremely pleased with everything and told us that we had the best home in the State of Coahuila! We were so thankful to God for His favor and His guidance.

We continued to operate in that facility for almost 5 years. After the death of the owner of the property, his wife suddenly announced to us that she had decided to no longer honor the partnership agreement we had operated under. She demanded that we leave the facility within three days. She had expected to take over our operation, including all our furnishings and equipment, our staff and worst of all…our children. We thank God that He kept that from happening!

Without going through all that happened, we were so blessed that the Lord had surrounded us with favor with some of the highest legal authorities in our State, local attorneys, and most of all…DIF officials. The owner had to step back and allow for a more civil separation. We were able to continue on in that facility for several more months while we searched for a new home. Once again, the Lord was already preparing a place for us…a wonderful home that is soooo much larger and nicer than the first facility.

When we met with the seller, she was very sensitive to our situation and current budgetary constraints. Knowing that we had neither a down payment nor credit in Mexico, she offered to rent the house to us for 1 year, during which time we would seek to raise the down payment and closing costs, then at the end of the year, we would execute the sale. She offered the property to us for less than ½ the appraised value and she also offered to finance the home with very reasonable terms.

This was an amazing offer. A tremendous, well-built home, in a much safer environment than our first facility, at a cost of ½ the appraised value with seller financing and great terms, and the ability to occupy the home while we raised the down payment. ***This was truly a "God deal"!***

We entered into this agreement on January 1 of this year. Right away we had started saving for the down payment. We had some generous folks help us get into the home in January with their donations, and some of it was the beginning of our savings, but the home had been vacant for 5 years and after housing an average of 35 children during our time here so far, we have found we had many repairs and modifications to take care of. Because of those issues plus the need for more furnishings, a rent payment (which we did not have in the previous facility) and a larger group of children to care for, we have had to use a large portion of the savings.

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We just wanted to have some "FUN" pages for a change.

We want to express how deeply grateful Anna and I are for our family of supporters. Many folks believe that since the Mexican authorities bring us so many kids, that we must be receiving some compensation from the Mexican government. However, in the 6 years we have been taking care of Mexico's children we have NEVER received even 1 Peso from the government. Without the financial support from caring individuals and churches, we would not be able to save these children. Our supporters are true "destiny changers". Your consistent giving allows us to do what we do, which creates the environment for God to do what He does, and it is truly miraculous how He has changed so many of these children. If you are not a regular monthly supporter, I ask you to prayerfully consider joining with us to keep this ministry growing. DIF (Child Protective Services) is glad to see us in a place where we can receive more children, but with more children comes more financial responsibilities so please take some quality time and talk with the Lord about connecting with us and becoming a monthly partner.

The rewards are eternal…

Blessings,

Dr. Ron & Anna Sherman

Remember:

Taking care of orphans is not God's suggestion…

…It is His command!

If you would like a contribution by check you can mail your contribution to the U.S. postal address below; Or, if you prefer, you can make your donation online by credit or debit card by clicking the link below.

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Casa Hogar El Corazon de Rey Children's Home is operated by White Stone Ministries, Inc.
White Stone Ministries is a 501(c)(3) tax-exempt organization so all contributions are tax-deductible.

"Needs" List

Kleenex Tissues
Feminine Products
Vitamins - Children's & Teens
Aluminum Foil
Ziplock bags (various sizes)
Dish Washing Liquid
Antibacterial hand soap
Hand Sanitizer
Dryer Sheets
Vinegar
Ammonia

Liquid detergent
Powdered detergent
Pinesol
Clorox
Shampoo
Hair Conditioner
Deodorant
Talcum Powder
Bar Keepers Friend
Wipees
Toothpaste

Toilet paper
Paper towels
Large trash bags
Tall kitchen trash bags
Hand lotion
Ragu Spaghetti Sauce
Cereal
Canned MIXED Vegetables
Canned Corn
Macaroni & Cheese
Animal Crackers

To our South African Family & Friends;

If you would like to become a financial partner with us, you can do so by making your donations to our South African bank account. Here are our banking details:

BANK: NEDBANK
ACCOUNT NAME: A M SHERMAN
ACCOUNT TYPE: CHEQUE
ACCOUNT NUMBER: 1737804670
BRANCH CODE: 173742
BRANCH: EASTGATE

You can also give online with a credit or cheque card at our secure website:

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