

August 7, 2020

Greetings from Mexico,



I've seen and dealt with so much over my years here in Mexico. Of different situations and stories of the children we have received. This story isn't about a child in the Casa Cuna. A few weeks ago, Brenda, Kenia, Danny and Lexie all came into my bedroom early on a Tuesday morning saying, "Look mom what we have." I saw hair sticking out of a blanket and my first thought was a puppy. They told me, "No it's a baby!" I was



more than surprised, I was shocked and confused! They explained the newborn baby had been left in a box at the corner of our street where the garbage is placed. At first it was thought it was a box of kittens, but when the blanket was lifted there was a baby. I still can't believe it! Where the garbage was is two houses down from where we live. Thankfully the garbage truck hadn't passed yet. Her umbilical cord was still quite long. I could definitely tell she had probably been born during



the night. I can't tell you the emotions and feelings we all went through for this precious baby girl. We got in touch with the pastor to find out what was best to do in this situation. He told us to go over to the Casa Cuna with the baby and he would call the authorities and meet us there. She wasn't moving much but I figured she hadn't had any milk and was weak. Other than that she looked healthy. We walked over to the Casa Cuna and decided if a home was needed to care for her we would offer. Not knowing with the quarantine if there would be a place for her to go. Once the police and ambulance came they checked her over and were going to take her away to the hospital. Brenda went in the ambulance and I went behind in my car. We had already become concerned for her well being and care in that short time we had her in the morning. Once at the hospital the staff of the hospital didn't want Brenda and I there or wouldn't allow us to visit her. They did tell Brenda it was good she was brought in not knowing how long she was left in the box bacteria could have enter through her umbilical cord. The child welfare agency was called and would be taking care of where she would be sent. Brenda and I went that day to the agency to check on the process and Brenda, Kenia and I went to a class for the possibility to care for her in our home until she was available for adoption. But the process was very long and we learned that day that we were at the class that she was placed in a home with a family. My main concern was that she was placed in a home and well cared for. They also said she was healthy. I gave her the name Hope, I believe like Jeremiah 29:11 that baby Hope has a hope and a future. What a precious baby girl. Please pray for baby Hope that she will be placed with the right family for adoption to love and care for her.



I was really looking forward to the Casa Hogar July vacation days that were 16 days. Cristian and Jenny (from the Casa Cuna) were going to be staying with me for all the days and Belen for one weekend. I



was really looking forward to the time off and having the children in my home. Besides going out for essentials we have been quarantine since the middle of March. Since we didn't have any of the normal breaks, like Easter and every 21 days were the children would go out for the weekend more days were added to the



normal July vacation days. Normally in July all the homes have 10 vacation days. It was decided two days before the vacation days started that Casa Cuna children were too little to go out with the quarantine still in effect. So our home didn't go out and Casa Matriz also

decided not send their children out. I still had Cristian for the 16 days as his home did go out and was happy to have the time with him. The first weekend I did the pool party that was planned for Belen's 13 birthday last March. The event place was forced to close a couple days before the party back in March. They reopened at the beginning of July so I made the plans to do the party for July 18. The Monday before the party the Governor said that event places would be closing again. I was pretty stressed not knowing if it would be canceled again. Once again I had the food and everything ready and stacked in my living room for the party. Thankfully our party was the last one the event place had permission to do. Besides Casa Famosos (Belen's home) there weren't that many other people that were going. They all had a wonderful time in the pool and enjoying the party. I was so relieved to have it done! Kenia made almost all the decorations and the piñata and she and Brenda decorate the event place. It looked really nice!





I had plans to go and stay at a couple's home I know near Melaque on the first week of vacation but with the cancelation I was thankful I was able to change it to my days off. Cristian and Jenny were still going to go with me then I heard they couldn't leave Colima so it ended up being Bren, Kenia and my grandson Danny. Their house has a pool and it was so nice just to get away and be somewhere different. We spent some time at the beach but it wasn't busy. It was truly wonderful, I can't believe what a difference in all of us just to having that little bit of time to get away. What a blessing!!



Cristian came back with us after we came back for the rest of the vacation days. He helped me one day in the Casa Cuna and spent time with Kenia and Danny until my next days off. The night before he went back to the Casa Leonel we celebrated his 8th birthday with pizza, cake and ice cream. He was so excited and so grateful! On his actual birthday we brought ice cream for the Casa Leonel children to enjoy and celebrate with him.



August 24 the children start school. It most likely will be online classes until next January or February. Kenia and I decided to home school Danny this coming school year. He turns three in October and is

well advanced from going last year. It will help me not to have the monthly tuition fee of his school. He really amazes me; he talks to me in English and the girls in Spanish. Today Kenia started talking to him in English and he asked her why she was talking to him in English? A while back the children in the Casa Cuna eyes got big when they heard him speaking English to me. He speaks English they asked me? They know some English but not to have a conversation. So Kenia will do his Spanish teaching and I will in English and I am sure Brenda will give us some ideas since she is a teacher also.

The Casa Cuna children will be watching their classes online. We will also have classes upstairs in the Casa Cuna for the Casa Matriz children. You think of how doing school online for a family and then think of how it is for us with all the children in all the homes! Pray for the staff and children in all the homes. It really is a lot!!



This week Luis Alberto and Karmen made the move to the Casa Matriz. We have had Luis since he was about four months old. He was also one of our special needs boys. It was hard to see him go but he also was a handful! We have noticed a big difference in our home and it has only been a few days. Karmen I will miss also, she was my helper and such a quick learner in English. I don't know if I ever wrote that Miguel also left in February to live with his mother. With Miguel and Luis both gone it is a lot easier to have control in the home. Miguel was becoming more violent and angry and Luis has major temper tantrums which would affect the other children.



We received three new children this week. Gael and Kenia Arianna are brother and sister and lived in the Esperanza home we have. I am amazed at how quickly they adjusted to moving with us. They really love being in the Casa Cuna. I hope they continue to do really well. We also received Mateo this week. He is 8 months old and the son of Monse who will be volunteering also in our home. Please



pray for all these children as they adjust to their new home.



Thank you for all of your support whether through prayers or donations. I am so grateful!!! Please keep all the staff and children of all our homes in prayer as this quarantine continues on. It has been stressful at times.

Blessings,

Michelle



Jeremiah 29:11

"For I know the plans I have for you," declares the LORD, "plans to prosper you and not to harm you, plans to give you hope and a future."

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