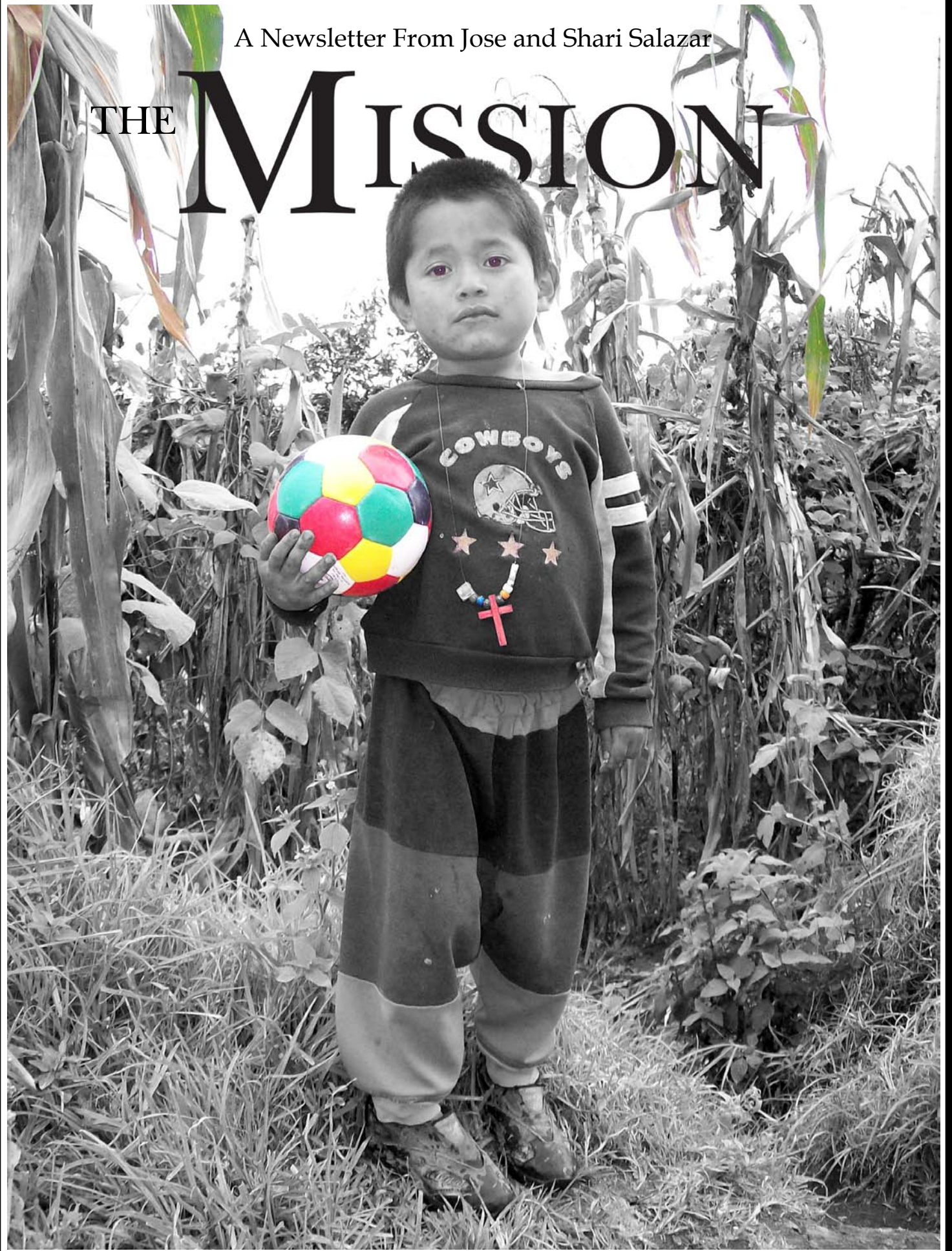


A Newsletter From Jose and Shari Salazar

THE MISSION



AUGUST-SEPTEMBER 2008

OUR CALL

As we have continued to seek the Lord in this matter

This past year has been a process of Jose and I seeking the Lord diligently concerning how to serve Him. We've known since last summer that he was calling us to work directly with children. Our initial desire was to get a house and start taking care of kids. We spoke with Jose's boss, Ron; of Pray America, concerning this and he felt led to buy "Monte Flor", the land proposal that was in our previous newsletter. His plan for this land was also for children, so we assumed this must be where the Lord is leading us. So we presented to you that we would be joining Pray America in this project.

However, as we have continued to seek the Lord in this matter, he is leading us in a different direction than they will be going. This has not been an easy decision. As a matter of fact, we have wrestled with this for the past several months. Finally Jose said to me, "Shari, why are we praying and asking God the same thing when we already know the answer?". The thing was we were both feeling led to start our own home for children. At last we said, "Lord, we will begin to look for a place because we know you want us to do this. We realize it would be logically easier to work with Pray America, yet we

are trusting in You since this is what you are calling us to do." From that moment of trusting the Lord and taking a big leap of faith, the Lord has continued to confirm that this is what He has for us to do. We were provided the opportunity of a home where we can begin to take care of kids rent free. We had the offer of furniture, such as beds, kitchen table and chairs, dryer, etc., from some missionary friends. For now, Jose has agreed to continue to work with Pray America through the end of December 2008. In the meantime, we have already begun our paper work for opening a children's home.

The logo for Casa Salazar is written in a highly decorative, black cursive script. The word 'Casa' is on the left and 'Salazar' is on the right, with a small floral or circular flourish above the 'S' in Salazar. The letters are thick and have a hand-drawn, artistic quality with some ink splatters and flourishes extending from the baseline.

Jose and I have both spent time working in orphanages here in Guatemala.

We have also spoken with many other people from various homes. We feel like there are much needed changes in the way abandoned children are taken care of in Guatemala. We want to try to make a difference one child at a time. We believe quality of care is more important than quantity of children. The children needing a home are usually abused and traumatized. They need help to begin the healing process. Giving a child food and shelter does not help them to heal. This is why we believe strongly in the ratio of 6-8 children. We want to reach the child that has been forgotten. When a child is put in a home, the paperwork begins for that child and a judge will decide if that child will return to their biological fam-

ily, be available for adoption, or become a permanent part of the system. We want to care for these permanent children. They would normally stay in an orphanage until 18 and then be let go, unprepared for life and without a family to return to. Statistics show that many of these children end up as prostitutes, drug abusers, alcoholics, etc. We want to maintain boundaries that separate our home from mission team work. To someone who has not spent a lot of time in orphanages here in Guatemala, this may seem like a harsh statement. But there is much reason behind why it is best for each child. We plan to create a stable home environment, which is not possible with different people coming in and out of the home all throughout

the year. We have seen the negative affects on the children when well-meaning Christians come down on a mission trip. They are only there for one week or so and want to show love to these children (I totally understand this, because that was me 8 years ago). However, the children learn to manipulate these adults by learning to ask for things and saying what these adults want to hear. Older children often become hardened. They know these people are not here for long and are not about to open up to them. There are many opportunities for mis-

sion teams—we just do not believe this should be one of them. I have seen many more negative results than positive. We want to create a stable environment for kids coming out of unstable homes! We want to provide opportunities for our kids to be part of the local community and church. We want the children to have relationships, but with people who will be constants in their lives. Hopefully our missionary community here in Chichi will be like the aunts and uncles to our children. We want them to have positive Christian relationships.

Our mission is to provide a stable and loving Christian based group home for 6-8 displaced and unadoptable children. To instill a love for Jesus Christ, develop Godly character, provide a biblically based education and develop the gifts God has given each specific child while providing them with the appropriate opportunities to utilize those gifts and skills and become contributing members of the church and community.

Our mission is to serve God.

- GOALS & OBJECTIVES -

WE ARE COMMITTED TO:

Model and teach each child in the ways of Jesus and our Sovereign Lord God.

Help each child grow in the Lord and send them out as servant leaders to their community.

Aid each child in educational opportunities so that they will be prepared and well trained in how to use their gifts and abilities.

Provide individual Christian counseling as needed and appropriate.

Maintain a ratio of children to adults of 8 to 1 or less in order to preserve a stable family environment.

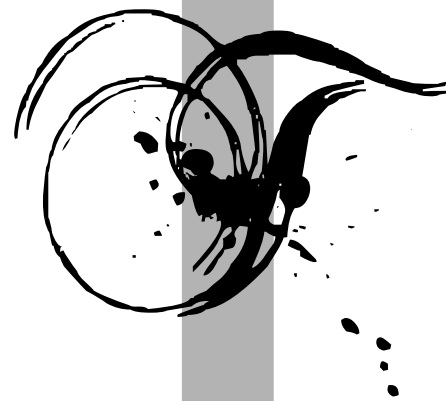
Provide a safe and caring environment for each child.

Create and Maintain boundaries that separate the home from mission team work.

Ensure that the country mandated requirements for (group homes) are being met and documented.

Continue being the family for the children even after they reach adulthood.

TRAIN A CHILD IN THE WAY HE SHOULD GO, AND WHEN HE IS OLD HE WILL NOT TURN FROM IT.



PROVERBS 22:5-7

School Year

2 0 0 7 - 2 0 0 8 :

Royal Academy

It was bittersweet for Shari as she finished her 4th year of teaching. We had a special open house presentation and pot luck dinner to finish up the school year on June 6. Jessica, the teacher for middle school and high school, and I taught our students the national anthem, My Country Tis of Thee, and The Pledge of Allegiance. I must say my eyes watered up to hear this. As much as I love

the beautiful country and people of Guatemala, I am still thankful that I was born in the United States of America. I have probably become even more patriotic while living in a foreign country. I am thankful our country was founded on Christian principles and so thankful that we have the freedom to worship in the U.S. as well as in Guatemala.

[-My Guatemalan students always keep me on my toes. I have thoroughly enjoyed my English classes with them, especially with the preschoolers. One little girl, Marialiss, asked me why I color my hair! She did not understand why I do not have black hair like everyone else.]

El Camino

One of my goals while teaching my English classes was for the students to learn to love reading. Guatemala as a country does not encourage reading. Even amongst the literate people, reading is not a hobby or past time. A few weeks ago, my Kindergarten English Class came in my classroom and I sent them up to the loft to look at books. In the meantime, while I had to answer a question from one of

my older students, I looked up into the loft to see all 9 of my Guatemalan students "reading" a picture book. I was thrilled! They were all making up their own stories and saying them out loud as they looked through the book. I pray the Lord will use their love of learning and reading to learn more about Him and the gifts that He has given each of them.

baby Madalyn

We have spoken often of the little orphanage, "Lemoa", that is only about a 15 minute drive from us. They received an infant a couple of months ago and named her Madalyn. Her story is one that touched our heart. She was left outside of a Pollo Campero (fast food restaurant) in the nearby town of Quiche during the middle of the night. We know that without the Lord's protection so many things could have happened to her to harm her, but thankfully she is being well taken care of at the home. An American couple have made her care one of their priorities while volunteering at the home. We have been able to see Madalyn grow from a malnourished little girl to a healthy and happy baby. Jose and I have had the privilege to baby-sit her a couple of times, and have just been reaffirmed that this is the work the Lord is calling us to do full time. We are so looking forward to working with children like her.



AGE: 1 HOME: LEMOA ORPHANAGE, CHICHICASTENENGO

Cesar



All the kids want to wear Jose's glasses.

SUMMER PROJECTS

MISSION TEAMS :

Jose had a busy schedule with the mission teams this summer. They were able to build many houses and reach out to the local people in love through this gift. There was one team that was really difficult and we are thankful for those who prayed for us during that difficult time.

CHILD CARE WORKERS CONFERENCE :

Shari and Jose helped to organize a conference for child care workers here in Chichicastenango, June 26-28. Darla France, a Licensed Professional Therapist with a Masters in Bib-

What profit has the worker from that in which he labors? I have seen the God-given task with which the sons of men are to be occupied.

ECCLESIASTES 3:9

lical Counseling and is a Certified Trauma Specialist spoke at the conference concerning healing the wounds of children. The teaching was amazing. She taught us many important things to know and do when working with children who have been abused and traumatized. Attending the conference were 23 workers

of children's homes and social workers and psychologists who work in children's homes. We hope this training will be taken back to each work place and used as well as taught to other workers. In a country where abuse is not talked about, we feel like this kind of a teaching could open up opportunities for healing in a lot of children! There was a lot of interest in continuing this kind of training. Darla and her Life Touch team will hopefully be returning to Guatemala for future conferences.

PAPERWORK :

There is much paperwork to complete before Casa Salazar can be opened. We are happy to say that one of the steps was completed this summer. We have 2 more to go. Please continue to pray for blessing over the completion of this paperwork!

VISITORS :

We were thrilled to have Shari's Mom visit this summer! It was very special to have her see Casa Salazar in the beginning stages! We really enjoyed her visit!

THE TRUTH PROJECT :

(Focus on the Family) We are thankful that we had the opportunity to study this project with other missionaries. "You will know the truth and the truth will set you free."

"GLEANING" :

A look into modern day missions. The Bible teaches the concept of gleaning. In the book of Ruth, Boaz allows the poor to glean the wheat that is left on the ground. We have seen here in Chichi examples of poor who were given hand outs and poor who were given the opportunity to work for something. The results are amazing. The handouts tend to lead to more asking and dependency. The gleaning allows the poor to work for what they need. This is one of the truths that was discussed in The Truth Project. We want to put this into practice whenever possible.

“Relying on God has to begin all over again every day as if nothing had yet been done.”

-C. S. Lewis

VIEWS OF *Casa Salazar*

UNLESS THE LORD BUILDS THE HOUSE, THEY LABOR IN VAIN WHO BUILD IT.

PSALM 127:1



LOCATION: Chichicastenengo

PURPOSE: To glorify God through a family style orphanage.

ADMINISTRATION: Jose and Shari Salazar

GROUNDS: Under ownership of Missions Frontier, an American organization run by Matt and Leslie Capehart, fellow missionaries.

FACILITIES: As of now, 2 rooms plus kitchen & bath. The goal is to build onto the existing concrete structure to fulfill required needs.

FUNDING:

Not yet provided. The estimated cost to meet government standards and suffice for up to 8 children: \$80,000.

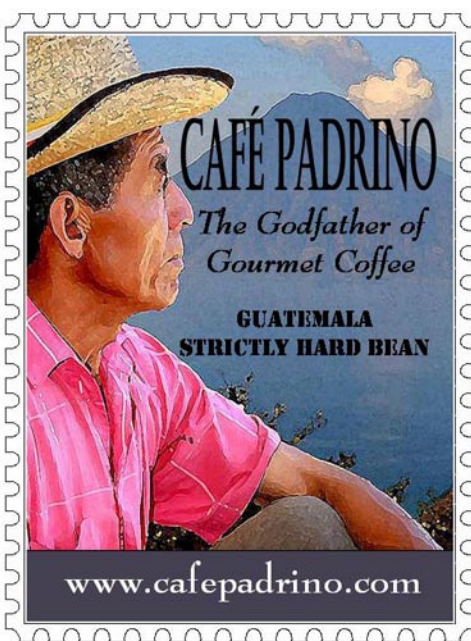
VIEW: Set atop a large hill, as seen, overlooking the town of Chichi, and surrounding area. It is a beauty of God's creation to view.



PRAYER REQUESTS:

PAPERWORK PROCESS FOR OUR HOME
REPLACEMENT FOR JOSE AT PRAY AMERICA

THAT WE WOULD RECEIVE THE CHILDREN THAT GOD HAS FOR US
THAT GOD WILL PROVIDE FINANCIALLY FOR OUR NEW PROJECT
THAT WE WILL CONTINUE TO TRUST THE LORD IN OUR NEW PROJECT
UPCOMING TRIP TO U.S. [AUGUST 25 - SEPTEMBER 25]
PRAISE THE LORD FOR THE BLESSING OF THE CONFERENCE!
WE CONTINUE TO PRAISE THE LORD FOR OUR CAR!



If you enjoy drinking coffee, this is a website that allows you to buy coffee from our region in Guatemala and help missions at the same time! The profit from the purchase will be used for missions here in Chichicastenango! We know the people who started this project personally and know that you will be helping a good work!

www.cafepadrino.com



This small map shows the region in which Jose and Shari live, Chichicastenango, and surrounding towns. Guatemala City and the nearest major airport are a 3-hour drive down the mountain from Chichi. Antigua, a 2 hour drive, is where Cafe Padrino [above] grow their coffee, and also Starbucks buys beans for their Guatemala Antigua blend.

THANK YOU To all of our supporters and those who have kept us in your prayers. Our lives have never been more blessed than when we fulfill the Lords will.

“A servant of God has but one Master.” -George Muller