



WHITE STONE MINISTRIES

Newsletter
Fall 2020



www.whitestonekids.org

Greetings In The Name of The Lord Jesus!



Dr. Ron & Anna Sherman

GOOD NEWS

THE FOCUS OF THIS NEWSLETTER IS TO SHARE WITH OUR FRIENDS AND MINISTRY PARTNERS, SOME ABSOLUTELY **AMAZING NEWS!**

It is a true testimony of the grace and the goodness of God!

Before I share the absolutely astounding news, I want to give folks a bit of our history. Many may already know some of the history of our ministry here in Acuña, but we have many new friends who have joined with us just in the past several years, so I want to tell you where we came from... where we are right now... and where we are going.

Anna and I came to Acuña 13 years ago and took over a failing orphanage. During the first 5 years, the Lord sent people our way to help fix, repair, and build it into what the State of Coahuila, Child Protective Services (PRONNIF) director labeled us as, *“the Best Children’s Home in the State of Coahuila”*. For 12 years we have maintained that title with the help and guidance of the Lord.

Five years into our time at that orphanage, the owner of the property passed away and his family basically evicted us because they wanted to take over our ministry. We had to trust God to provide a new place for our children and we had less than 2 months to locate suitable property, license the property then to move the children and all the furnishings. Everyone said that was an impossibility, because we had to create a nonprofit organization (*Casa Hogar El Corazon de Rey*) and that alone usually takes up to 9 months...but that was nothing for the Lord! We not only got the new nonprofit completed and registered, but we found property and were able to move, all in just 2 months!

We were introduced to the owner of the property that we are currently residing in. We struck a deal that allowed us lease the property for 2 years at a rate of \$1000.00 per month. Plus, if we came to her with a down payment, she would sell us the home and finance it for 20 years.

We spent those 2 years working toward raising the down payment amount we had agreed upon and finally we hit the mark. I called the owner to tell her we were ready to buy the house according to our agreement...but...she had decided that, in her words, she wanted a “perpetual income” so she had no intention of honoring our deal. We were devastated. I don’t like renting because we need to be investing in our own property...not investing in someone else’s. We had no choice but to rent the house for another term of 5 years. Not only did she renege on our agreement, she raised the lease payment from \$1000 to \$1500 per month!

So, suffice is to say, we were not happy at all. Our current lease runs out in about 1 year from now and we already know she will be making another substantial hike in the lease payment.

This is simply not acceptable! We have been praying for an answer to this predicament, in the hope that she would change her mind and sell it to us as she originally agreed. In addition to the house we are in right now, we have prayed that if it is possible, we need to purchase another piece of property adjacent to us so that our kids could have a big enough yard to play soccer and engage in other outside activities, since we have almost no grassy area at all for our kids to play on. We have also wanted to plant a small garden so that we could teach the children about growing their own food. We obviously could not do that until we became the owners of the house.

We have known that at some time during the next few months we were going to be faced with a serious decision about what to do about this house. Up until now, there have been no answers or options that have come to us, so we have simply just trusted the Lord to take care of us. After all, the children we take care of are His children and we are just given the responsibility to take good care of them. Psalms 68: says: “*A father of the fatherless, a defender of widows, Is God in His holy habitation.*” so we have applied our faith to the knowledge of His promises that He cares for us, and since He is a good Father, He will definitely care for His children.

Three weeks ago I got a telephone call. Although God wasn’t the one on the other end of the line, He surely was the One behind the call!

The man introduced himself and explained that he had an offer for us. (By the way...this is the AMAZING NEWS I told you about at the beginning.) This man is the president of a nonprofit organization here in Mexico that operated one of the oldest orphanages here in Acuña. The orphanage was closed about 2 years ago and this man had been hearing about us for quite some time. He said he had heard many good things about us so he want to offer their property to us!

It took me a few moments to process what he was saying. I have known of the orphanage and the property it sits on for years but I had never been there. He went on to explain that he has a 100 year lease with the City of Acuña and there is about 65 years left on the lease. I stuttered a bit because I was waiting for the punchline when he would state what amount of money he required for us to lease from him... he said...

“IT IS FREE!!!”

I sat there stunned! I have seen photos of the property and knew that there are 2 very large buildings on the property; one of which is only a few years old! I also know that because of its location there must be ample room for a play area and possibly a garden.

He said that he wanted the property to continue serving children and he really wanted us to take possession of it if we so desired.

So we met with him on the property the next day, not really knowing what to expect. He had explained that the property had been vacant for over 2 years and vandals had broken in and stolen air conditioners and some other equipment and had done some damage when pulling out some of the electrical wiring.

What an amazing place!

The two buildings sit on about 9+ acres. Needless to say...the kids will be able to play soccer! These 9+ acres are situated in the right in the middle of about 400 acres of vacant land.

The newer building was built specifically as a children’s home. It is not a house that was converted into an orphanage like the one we are in now...it was designed to function especially as a children’s home. If you have ever visited our existing property, then you know how large it is, so comparing it to the new house, the new house is approximately 50% larger! The larger, newer building is 8073 sq.ft. and cost over \$428,000 to build in 2015.

Remaining in the new house there are substantial furnishings and equipment. There is a commercial kitchen with all the commercial appliances. The dining room is furnished with plenty of high quality tables and seating. There are 2 very large dorm rooms fully furnished with exceptionally strong bunk beds. Each bedroom has a large changing room that is furnished with custom built closets/lockers for each child. There is a large laundry room and various storage rooms. There are 5 offices, an infirmary, and several other rooms used for a variety of functions. There are 2 massive rooms that were used as living rooms, educational activities, crafts, etc.





The second building is an older building and is about the same size as our current facility. It was the original orphanage and it will be easily prepared to house a small apartment for Anna, Sugey and I, as well as providing sleeping quarters for visiting groups with as many as 50+ group members. Outside there is a concrete basketball/soccer court, playground with swings and an in-ground SWIMMING POOL!

After taking the tour around the facility, I once again asked the gentleman about the cost to us. He just sternly looked at me and said: "I told you it is yours for 65 years if you want it and you pay nothing...just take care of the children!" WOW!

The original lease term was 100 years and it was initiated about 35 years ago, so there is approximately 65 years left... however, when our attorney examined the lease contract, he showed me a provision in the contract that states that if at the end of 100 years, if the nonprofit organization is still providing a home for orphans, then the contract is automatically renewed for an additional 100 years! So our investment in the property is safe for at least the next 165 years!

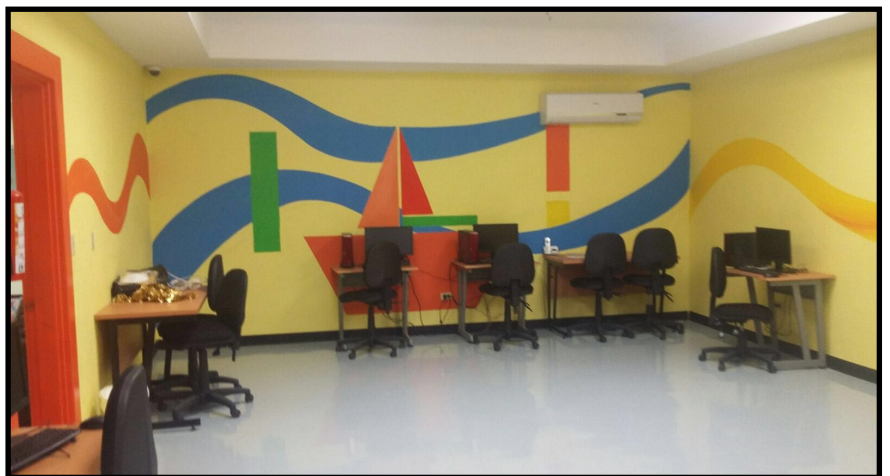
During our conversation, there were more surprises! Because the buildings are so huge, and the entire facility had (and will have again) mini-split air conditioners throughout, my mind was reeling thinking about the cost of the electricity. Electricity costs are higher in Acuña than they are in Texas. When I asked him what the normal range of the cost of the electricity was, he told me that monthly costs ranged from \$750 to over \$2000 during the Summer months. I swallowed hard and he read my mind...he said "but you don't have to pay that". **What??!!**

He said that he had petitioned the government years ago to help with the electricity and they granted it! So in all his years operating the orphanage, **he never paid an electric bill, so neither will we!**

Then...there was more!

He said he applied to the City for a subsidy for employee's wages and for many years they have given him a grant of \$12,000 Pesos (\$600+/- USD) each month and that too stays connected to the property!

This is absolutely an amazing gift from God!



Although this was such a stunning opportunity for us, this gentleman was so sad and embarrassed because the property has fallen into such disrepair and had been vandalized. As we viewed the property, we had to look beyond what it looks like right now, and look to what it can be once it is brought back to life.

In order to make it livable and to prepare it to be licensed, It will require a considerable investment to restore the facility. We have received estimates from various tradesmen and we estimate that the entire cost to revitalize the property, to prepare it for our children and staff, and to comply with Child Protection Services (PRONNIF) will be approximately \$100,000-\$110,000.

Here are some of the things that must be addressed. This is not a complete list.

- Lots & lots of debris broken glass, etc. that must be removed and hauled away.
- The buildings need extensive cleaning
- Windows must be replaced
- Walls & ceilings to be repaired/replaced - thieves ripped out much of the electrical wiring
- A number of mini-splits must be bought and installed
- Electricity repaired/replaced/added
- Security lighting must be installed all around the property
- Security cameras - we have some but we need quite a few more
- Painting, Painting, Painting
- The entire grounds need to be cleared of overgrown weeds and brush
- Fence repaired/replaced/added
- Light fixtures w/ceiling fans to be replaced
- Staff quarters inside 2nd building must be created
- Small apartment must be created for security guard/driver
- Plumbing issues addressed
- Vital utility equipment needed: i.e. - main water pump water, water heaters
- Electric transformer replacement - thieves blew the transformer in tearing out wiring
- Furnishings needed: i.e. - office desks, chairs, couches, etc.
- Equipment needed: subcompact tractor/mower, blade and bucket attachments, weed eaters, lawn mowers
- The 1/2 mile driveway must be reworked



I realize that this may seem like a lot of money but allow me to compare this to our existing budget.

Currently, we are paying the lease payment on the main house and in addition, we pay rent for 2 staff houses and a Group Bunk house that we prepared for visiting groups just 1 month before the COVID issue hit us. That combined monthly total equals approximately \$2300 (depending upon the USD-Peso exchange rate). Our average electric bill is approximately \$600 monthly.

In total, these combined annual expenses come to approximately \$35,000. If the landlord raises the rent to what I believe she will (based upon previous conversations with her), that total rises to almost \$41,000 per year.

Looking at the cost savings, this means that we will be saving, not only the \$40,000+ per year, but we will also be receiving the \$600 per month subsidy from the City of Acuña which adds an additional \$7200 per year to our bottom line.

So when these are all factored together, the money saved plus the subsidy, it comes out to a **net increase for us of \$47,000 per year!!!** Using the the greatest estimate, if it takes the full \$110,000 to restore the entire property, we would have spent that in our present house in a little over 2 years! So that's an investment in our ministry, instead of a continual expense.

This is such a blessing. Not only are we getting a much bigger, much better, much more awesome place, but we are seeing a net increase in our income by almost \$1000 per week. ONLY GOD COULD PUT THIS IN OUR HANDS!

To put this in perspective, we will **spend \$110,000 ONE TIME...then save \$47,000 EVERY YEAR!!!**

So now the work begins and we need your help!

We need to raise the funds necessary to start the work of restoring the buildings ASAP. We are setting a goal of \$110,000. We want to be out of our current house within the next 6 months. The faster we can move, the sooner we start saving money. \$110,000 to some is a lot of money...but we are simply asking folks to do whatever they can to help us.

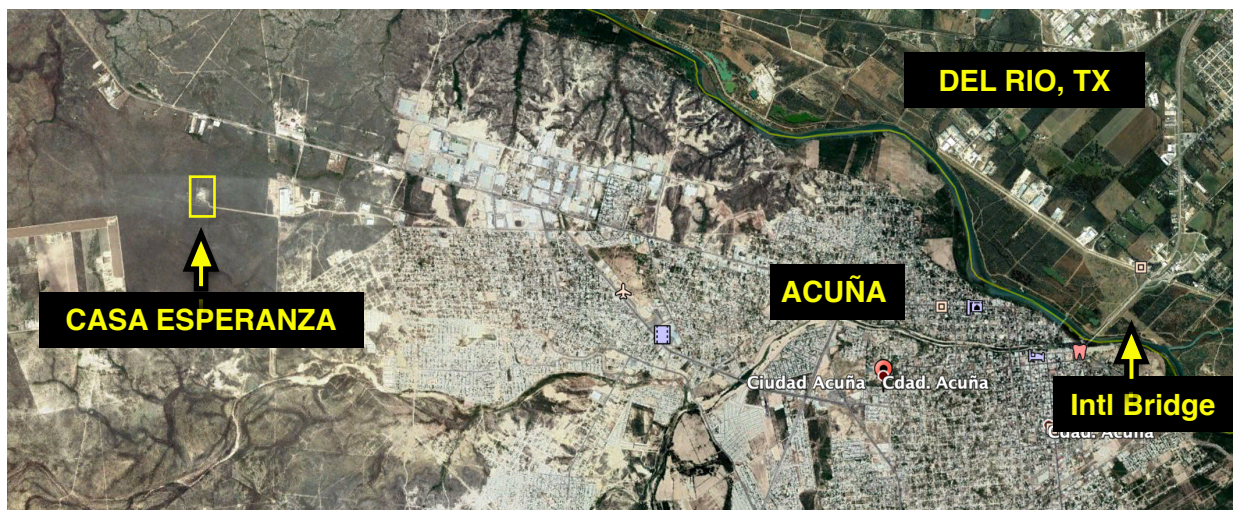
We have one more surprise...we have an amazing couple that are our dear friends, supporters and cheerleaders for our ministry who just informed me that they are going to give...

MATCHING DONATIONS!!!!

For every \$1 that someone donates for the specific purpose of restoring the buildings, they will match that \$1.

This is stunning...**this literally means that 1/2 of the money is already committed so long as others get on board with the project.** So if all you can give is \$100...then you actually provided \$200! If you give \$1000, then you have just provided \$2000! If you give \$55,000 then we have the entire \$110,000!

Please pray and ask God what your part is in this project. Our ministry has been home to almost 600 children in the past 13 years and most of those children have received the Lord Jesus into their hearts. So I assure you...this is good ground. Be a part of helping save the physical and spiritual lives of some precious children.





There is one more issue that we need to make our White Stone partners and friends be aware of. The 100 year lease has been granted to an existing Mexican Non-profit organization, called **CASA ESPERANZA (House of Hope)**. The legal advice we have received, has explained to us that if we change the name on the facility to another nonprofit, namely our existing one (**El Corazon de Rey**), we run the risk of almost certainly rendering the Lease Agreement null & void. Therefore we must adopt the name that is already legally in place.

So in order to be sure that we do not loose this opportunity, the current President and all the Board Members of CASA ESPERANZA have graciously resigned their board positions after voting to add our Board Members of EL CORAZON DE REY onto the Board. The one exception to this is that we have



agreed to keep the existing President on the board as a non-voting member. He suggested that if he can remain on the Board legally, his influence and favor in the community will continue to be an asset to our ministry. **So we will now be legally operating as CASA ESPERANZA.**

This is our new logo for the new Children's Home.

A note to our existing financial partners...

Dear partners, please remember that all our current expenses still require your monthly support. To receive the matching gifts, I must be able to verify that gifts are actually designated for the building project. So if you are giving over and above your normal monthly gift, please designate in a note or on your check that amount that you are giving to the building project.

**We can't do this alone...
we need YOU...
the children need YOU!
Let us hear from you soon!**

Remember...

Taking care of orphans is not God's suggestion...

It's His command!

**PLEASE CHECKOUT OUR WEBSITE TO SEE OUR
CASA ESPERANZA RESTORATION PROJECT FUNDRAISING PROGRESS.
WE WILL UPDATE IT WEEKLY.**

Anna and I count it a profound honor and privilege that God has entrusted the lives of these little ones to our care. The joy of seeing the transformation in the face of a child that has come to us from severe neglect or horrible abuse to that of a laughing, smiling little face, as that child, maybe for the first time in their life, experience a home full of love, full of life and full of Jesus. We could not do what we do without financial partners coming alongside us to help provide a home where these little princes and princesses can grow in the safety, security and spiritual environment that we believe that God desires for them.

To our existing partners: Anna and I cannot express how deeply grateful we are for the generosity and consistency of your giving. I can assure you on the authority of God's word, that He will bless you for blessing the children.

If you are not already one of our monthly financial partners, I urge you to join us in rescuing and caring for these orphaned, abandoned, abused and neglected children.

No gift is too small. Please don't ignore these children and regard them as insignificant because God certainly doesn't and he requires His church to care for these innocent ones ...those who cannot care for themselves. Please do not just say to yourself "someone else will do it... someone else will see to their needs", but rather ask God what he would have you to do to help us help these children.

So please take some quality time and talk with the Lord about connecting with us and becoming a **monthly partner**.

The rewards are eternal...

Dr. Ron & Anna Sherman

You can help us by passing this newsletter on to your Pastor or Missions Director for their

P.S.: Please help us with the best gift you can...we urgently need YOUR help.

P.S.S.: Here is The Lord's promise TO YOU when you help the orphans: Deuteronomy 15:10 ...Give generously to them (orphans & widows) and do so without a grudging heart; then because of this the LORD your God will bless YOU in all your work and in everything you put your hand to.

If you prefer to give by Credit or Debit card, go to:

www.whitestonekids.org/donate

If you prefer to send a Check or Money Order, please mail to:

**White Stone Ministries
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Email: drron@whitestonekids.org

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

Daily Needs

Kleenex Tissues
Feminine Products
Vitamins - Children & Teens
Aluminum foil
Ziplock bags - various sizes
Dish washing liquid
Antibacterial hand soap
Hand sanitizer
Dryer sheets
Vinegar for cleaning
Cooking Oil
Animal crackers

Liquid detergent
Powdered detergent
Pinesol
Clorox
Shampoo
Hair conditioner
Deodorant
Talcum powder
Bar Keepers Friend powder
Macaroni & cheese
Ammonia
Toilet bowl cleaner

Toilet paper
Paper towels
Large trash bags
Tall Kitchen trash bags
Hand lotion
Ragu spaghetti sauce
Cereal
Canned MIXED vegetables
Canned corn
Canned fruit
Toothpaste
Napkins