



Rocsana's Hope



www.rocsanashope.org

May 2019

From Stan



We have now been here for almost four months and things have really been moving along in a huge way. While we were back in the United States we received our first girl, as I shared with you in last month's update. God opened the door for me to return to Guatemala for a few days to meet Diana and help our staff acclimate to having our very first resident. Diana is an amazing young lady with a heart of gold who is very much looking forward to her future and growing into a responsible young adult here in Guatemalan society.

As word is spreading throughout our part of Guatemala about what we are doing and the nature of our ministry, we are getting more and more requests for consideration regarding girls who will soon be aging out of their orphanages but have nowhere to go and no one to help them. God has been so good at providing all of our needs up to this point as we have had the daunting task of furnishing an entire house from nothing to having a functional home at least with the minimums so far. We have an operating kitchen and bedrooms that we are now using on a daily basis and we are making it work. There is still much we do not have yet but know in God's time the provision is coming. All of us as the staff of Rocsana's Hope are so excited that we are even able to be here and be open and able to start taking in girls, even though we are not fully furnished or ready...but that is okay. We have trusted God to this point and His faithfulness has been amazing.



Diana Fitting Right In

When I made my brief return to Guatemala in the middle of April to personally meet Diana and assist our staff in welcoming our very first girl, we had just an amazing time together just getting to know her and making sure she felt welcome in our home. When I arrived, the staff did not know I was coming and the look on their faces was priceless as I rang our doorbell and they came out to see who it was. I could hear word spreading into the house as our houseparents' kids looked out and I started hearing "Papa Stan esta aqui". One by one everyone came running out to see me and greet me. It was a wonderful time. Diana was the last to come out and she came out with a huge smile and came right up to me and hugged me. This was a moment that was a very long time in the making. Rocsana's Hope was in the vision stage for almost a year and a half, and for us to have finally reached that moment was a very special thing for me.

I spent roughly three days in Guatemala before returning to the United States to close out our affairs there. During that time I spent time with our staff as well as Diana working out some of the necessary details of receiving Diana into our program. There are still many elements that we need to develop and areas that need to be addressed. This is a massive undertaking and in all honesty there is still a lot of things we need to work through before we get things running like a well oiled machine. But we are making progress. Please keep praying for us in this area.

One thing I got to do for the staff when I was there was to celebrate Lucky's birthday. It just happened to fall on the last day I was there. So I asked Lucky what she would like and I am not sure she knew exactly what to say. I asked her what her favorite food was and she immediately said pizza. Well that is all I needed to hear. So I told Lucky she did not need to cook that night and instead we ordered out for Domino's Pizza for everyone in the house. (Yes they actually have Domino's Pizza here.) We had a wonderful evening together eating pizza and celebrating her birthday. We also did a small cake and sang happy birthday to her. The photo above was taking during that time.

While it has not been without it's challenges, there is a good spirit here in our house right now. We are absolutely dependent on the Lord Jesus Christ and are acutely aware of our need for Him every moment of every day. We as a staff understand that is the only way we are going to be successful with this ministry. As hard as it is sometimes to live by faith, I think my greatest fear is that I ever get to the place where I feel like we are okay on our own. The day we reach that place will be a very sad day for our ministry. It is my intention to lead our team into a daily reliance on Almighty God for everything.



On Friday, May 17th, Roczana's Hope will be having our official Grand Opening/ Open House to kickoff our time here in Guatemala and let every know that we are now here and open for

business. While we are still very much a work in progress, we feel it is imperative to let people know who we are, what we are about, and that we are here and ready to go. So we are slowly building towards that day that is coming up later this week.

We have several friends that are coming down from the United States to help with our special event and they begin arriving next week. We will be open to the public all day and then have a special program in the evening to further help people know what it is we are doing. The festivities begin at 9:00 in the morning and we will be hosting people all day. We will have snacks and finger foods and we will be giving tours and sharing the vision of Roczana's Hope. People will get to meet Roczana and speak with her as well as Diana, both of whom are pictured above.

It is truly an exciting time for us as we have been working very hard towards this day. So we wish to say a big hearty thank you to all of you who, although you may not get to be here for our grand opening, have had a huge part in helping us reach this point in our ministry. We pray God blesses you beyond measure for the time and resources that so many of you have invested over the past months and have believed God with us to see Roczana's Hope become a reality, which it now finally is. Thank you so much!!



Even though we just have one girl so far, we do not feel it is too early to begin the long process of teaching our girls English. With great excitement, Roczana and Diana along with Alberto

have begun learning English as their second language. It is not lost on myself how difficult it is to learn a new language, having spent the last five years working on becoming somewhat fluent in Spanish. While I am not there yet and there are still many words that I do not know, it is definitely a work in progress.

We are going to be enrolling the girls in an actual English learning school once we have a few more in our program but, as I discussed it with them, they all wanted to start just with some basic English lessons right now. So I have taken a book that was given to us as a guide and have already had our first few lessons. It is interesting to see how certain sounds are difficult for them to pronounce because they do not have that sound in their language. But the goal is to get each of them to the point where they can become fluent in English. If we can help them accomplish this, then their value in the work force here in Guatemala will be greatly increased. They will be far ahead of most Guatemalans looking for a job and it will open many more doors because there are many companies popping up here in Guatemala that are looking for people that can read, write, and speak in both English and Spanish.

Pray for them as they begin this challenging journey and that they will have an easier time of it than I have. LOL



Jeff and I traveled to Guatemala City yesterday at the request of Myrna Contreras, the lady whom we wrote about last December that works high in the government of Guatemala

and oversees the female side of all of the government orphanages here. She has a young lady that is getting ready to turn 18 next week and she is hopeful that we will be able to accept her into our program.

We drove to zone 1 in the city, a rather rough part of town where the government orphanage is located. It is on a very busy street in the heart of the city and is unmarked. If you don't know that an orphanage operates there, you can walk right by it and have no idea.

We jumped through the government's hoops and received permission to enter as this is an all-girls orphanage. We met the director and Myrna at the entrance and went in to meet "Darla". We spent roughly two hours with her and shared a lot about our ministry and also talked about what she wants to do with her future. She tells us that she is very interested in the medical field either as a paramedic, nurse's aide, or even a doctor. She has a very strong drive to excel in this field and is already taking some classes in her high school specific to the medical field. She also is motivated by the fact that she has an older brother who is mentally handicapped that she desperately wants to help.

Please pray for us that we will have wisdom over the next week as we are making these decisions that will alter the future of these precious young girls.

Our Greatest Single Need Going Forward

I can honestly tell you that the most difficult aspect of opening a brand new ministry are the many areas of need that there are in order to become fully functional and operational. It is a difficult thing to have so many areas of need and to share them every month with our faithful friends who are already giving so much just to help us be open and operate. There are many things we are doing without right now that we will for sure need in the future, but there are several things that are becoming critical as far as need goes. Last month we shared about some security issues and God provided some funds for us to help increase in that area.

But now that we are here, there is yet another very critical need that is growing in scope. We have yet to be able to purchase any kind of a vehicle for the ministry here in Guatemala. We have been getting by renting cheap cars here in Guatemala but of course they are small. They have helped immensely but now that we have 13 people living in the house, it has become a more critical need. When we went to church the other day we made multiple trips to get everyone there. It was not hard but it has reminded us that if we ever need to get everyone transported quickly for whatever reason, we will not be able to.

Jeff and Esther have been raising money for a vehicle but the ministry definitely needs one as well. I, as the director, feel the weight of raising all of the funds for the ministry and all of its operations and a decent vehicle is one of many needs, but it is a great one. While we have been listing this with our needs and sharing about the vehicle that will be most helpful, it is a very big expense, so I think we would be happy with maybe purchasing something less, like an older used minivan that can get more people in it.

Again, I hate to seem like we are always in need, but the truth is we are. There is so much that we haven't even addressed yet but at this point, this is definitely our greatest need. We are praying and asking God to meet all of our needs, but I do believe it is incumbent on us to share these needs and simply ask people to pray. We are trusting God to supply something we can use because He knows it is a need. My only request is that you pray with us in asking God to increase our faith and provide for this critical need.

How to Give to Roczana's Hope

Sending a check through the mail:
-Make your check Payable to "Roczana's Hope" You may use the return envelope enclosed with this newsletter, or just send it to the following address:

**Roczana's Hope
 PO Box 2013
 Olathe, KS 66051**

Online Giving

If you are new to giving online and wish to do so, you may go to our website at www.roczanashope.org and simply click the "donate" button. You can complete your gift right there on the site.