

Prayer Team:

Kim Rozelle
Rick Rozelle
Gwen VanManen
Aaron VanManen
Miriam Carpenter
Suzanne Bredow
Dede Wielhouwer
Mike Wielhouwer
Roger Hoogewind
Dan Smith
Heidi Smith

(On July 9, 2009, the first prayer meeting was held to ask God for guidance and direction on starting an orphanage in Guatemala. The following is a compilation of events that led up to the formation of this group.)

Kim – January 2006 This is my third mission trip to Guatemala with Paradise Bound Ministries. Dan Smith, Katie Rozelle, and I were all working together inside one of the houses we were building, talking about the Guatemalan children and maybe trying to bring some of them to the U.S. to help them with medical issues. Dan expressed his desire to some day open an orphanage and said he just wanted to plant the seed in my head, as he knew of Rick's and my love for orphans and our love for Guatemala and their ministry. Since that trip, the idea of one day spending more time in Guatemala working with Paradise Bound either with an orphanage or a permanent medical clinic, or both, has been a part of my everyday thinking. The amount of time we would eventually spend in Guatemala gradually increased from a few months a year, to half the year, or maybe eight months out of the year, with the rest of our time being spent in the U.P. of Michigan.

Aaron – March 2008 For me the orphanage was being planted in my head beginning in March of 2008, a Tuesday night Gwen and I were discussing our finances and trying to figure out if God was leading us to adoption. This process is what has really opened my eyes to the need for orphanages and what orphanages do.

Kim - January, 2009 Rick and I discussed the real likelihood of ever spending much time in Guatemala after his retirement and I began to realize it wasn't his dream like it was mine. He couldn't see a place where he would fit down there and always felt that it was more "my" thing than his. I realized that if it's not in his future to do it, then it's obviously not in my future, so I let it go, though it wasn't easy. I remember driving from Rockford to Brimley on Friday, January, 23 and this was all I thought about and prayed about and cried about. I prayed that God would help me to let it go with no resentment, that He would help Rick and I find a ministry we could be in together when he retired.

Gwen - In January of 2009 I started to pray for God to show us where he wanted Aaron and me. At this time we had so many emotions because we were in the referral process of adopting a baby from Ethiopia. We are getting a baby through adoption. I know God wants this for our family, and he made my heart fall in love with orphans. My heart breaks for children with no parents or homes to love them. As the year progressed, I continued to pray for God to reveal to us where he wanted us.

Suzanne - In January 2009 I started praying for God to give my life some purpose and direction.

Kim – February 15, 2009 Sunday morning was not a good morning for me. I kept telling Rick and the kids to just go to church without me, but I kept getting ready at the same time and eventually got out the door and to church. Mirf was preaching at “The Well”, and I knew the minute he started preaching that this sermon was something I needed to hear and Satan had tried to keep me from coming to hear it! He preached on Romans 12:2 , *“Do not conform any longer to the pattern of this world, but be transformed by the renewing of your mind. Then you will be able to test and approve what God's will is – his good, pleasing and perfect will.”* Mirf said the pattern of this world is fear and that we learn to fear as we age. He said that God put a fire in the belly of some of us, gave us a vision once, spoke to us, but things got difficult and we started to back away from something that God called us to do. As he spoke, it felt like something began to build up inside of me that wanted to burst. He said God's gifts and calling are irrevocable. He spoke about not just knowing about God, but knowing God and not ignoring the fire in our belly getting out of the boat. And then he said, *“God gave me a very clear vision this morning. There's somebody here and God has spoken to you about working with orphans.”* (It was right about here that whatever it was that was building up inside of me during the sermon burst out and I started crying.) *“God has spoken to you about working with adoption agencies and this kind of thing. And it's something that you've backed away from. I don't know who you are. It's a woman, a middle-aged woman. And whoever you are, you're here this morning. And God spoke to you years ago and it's something you even shared with people. And you had some things on paper and you had some financial stats on paper, but you got busy, and you backed away from it. And I don't know who you are, but God is saying, 'Hey, that dream was from me. That idea was from me. Pick it back up. Pick it back up.’”* So I started praying that if God wants me to pick this back up, please show me where and how He wants me to do it, and to help Rick and I both to see how we fit in this together. I was scheduled that week to work with Dan Smith helping to load a container that was going to Guatemala and cleaning the facility they had used for storage, so I thought I would talk to him to see if he was still thinking about the possibility of an orphanage in Guatemala. But it was crazy busy, lots of guys around, and no real opportunity to talk to him, so I e-mailed Heidi a few days later and briefly told her about what had happened and asked if they were still thinking about an orphanage at some point in the future. She responded that yes, it was something they very much wanted to do and that they had land that would be donated to them if they opened an orphanage for special-needs children. So, once again, I laid it in God's hands. Dan & Heidi were open to the idea. I was willing to do whatever was necessary, but at this point in my life with Rick still working, two kids in college and two more heading there soon, I knew retirement was not in the near future for him, so moving to Guatemala for any length of time to open an orphanage would definitely require some major God-ordained door opening!!!

Suzanne - April 2009 God spoke one single word to me: orphanage. There are no orphanages in the greater Grand Rapids area, so I continued to pray for direction. I heard “orphanage” again. I saw myself being in an administrative position in Rockford, coordinating the building and supplying of an orphanage. With not knowing what to do with the word, I just kept on praying.

Kim - May 16, 2009 We were going to Danielle Newkirk's wedding and had planned on sitting with one group of people from church, but God planned for us to sit with another group of people from church and sat us right next to Aaron and Gwen VanManen. It didn't take long for the topic of conversation to turn to adoption, then to orphanages, then to the land in Guatemala, then to the fact that Gwen and Aaron have been feeling led to make some big changes in their lives. We talked all evening about the possibility of working together to make an orphanage happen in Guatemala and about how we envisioned it. I kept getting "God bumps" all evening! It seemed to be getting a little clearer now. At this point in our lives, Rick and I can't just leave and go start an orphanage, but Aaron and Gwen can, and we can *help* it to happen (and maybe spend more time down there at some point in the future.) Gwen and I both contacted Heidi via e-mail to let her and Dan know what was happening.

Aaron – May 17, 2009 Gwen and Kim Rozelle started the talks and began the working of where God was leading them. At first I was okay with it, wondering where will it lead, not really too excited but not against it at all. We sent an email to Dan and Heidi Smith with Paradise Bound to prepare them for when we were going to be down there in June and to talk to them about the orphanage. As the time grew closer, it was getting more and more exciting. There were emails between Dan and Heidi and us, talks with Rick and Kim Rozelle, and my personal devotions. I was already receiving confirmation.

Gwen – May 17, 2009 We went to Danielle Newkirk's wedding. The reception was not assigned seating, and we happened to sit by Rick and Kim Rozelle. They were planning on sitting at a different table, but decided to stay at our table. During our dinner conversation Kim asked how our adoption process was going. I said, "It is going well, we are just waiting for our referral." As our conversation continued I said, "My heart breaks for orphans and I have been praying to see if God wants us to start a orphanage. I don't know, just praying for guidance. We will see what happens." Kim sat up straight in her seat and said, "That is my heart too." We both looked at each other, and we were stunned. Kim and I started talking, and she told us that Paradise Bound has land given to them for an orphanage. We were so excited that evening talking about where God was leading us. Aaron and Kim both emailed Dan and Heidi to tell them about our hearts, and what had happened. They emailed back and said that when we get to Guatemala in June, we will talk.

Kim - June 1, 2009 Aaron, Gwen, Rick and I got together one evening before Aaron and Gwen and the youth group went to Guatemala on their mission trip to discuss exactly what we were all thinking and where we all stood in relation to the possibility of starting an orphanage. Aaron and Gwen are practically ready to sell it all and go. Rick is more cautious and steady and sees all that he is responsible for here, so says he'll help where he can, but will keep working and help financially for now. A plan was made for Aaron and Gwen to talk to Dan and Heidi while they were in Guatemala about how real the likelihood of starting an orphanage actually is, and then we would go from there.

Gwen – June 1, 2009 The week before we left, we met with Rick and Kim to see if they were serious about starting an orphanage. We had a good talk and discussion and had a few questions to ask Dan and Heidi.

Aaron – June 16, 2009 – Guatemala - I took a group of high school kids and leaders to Guatemala for a week. After the youth mission trip in 08, God made it very clear that we needed to take the group we had to Guatemala for a mission trip. I told a few people and we started to plan the trip. (God was already planning the orphanage.) I had no idea in July of 2008 that I would be excited about going to Guatemala with high school teens but also to see where God was leading us in an orphanage endeavor. The week came and God worked in the kids. Satan was working between Dan, Heidi, Gwen and me. Malachi came to La Bendicion with Dan and was sick most of the time, so Dan could not spend much time talking with us. When we returned back to the mission base, Haven was sick and Heidi was in the hospital with Haven and we did not get to talk. It was on the last night that we had time to talk with Dan. That night when Dan was done with his devotions, it was clear that the kids were touched. One after another was touched and fell facedown before the cross in tears for what God was doing in their hearts. In that moment I felt as if God was saying, "Well done. You can pursue the orphanage and move from RRC." That night there was confirmation. As the group went to bed Dan, Gwen and I sat up late into the night talking about what God was doing. The specific entry in my prayer journal reflected the points made during our meeting with Dan: Dan & Heidi are worn out after a summer of mission trips, Heidi could use a friend in Guatemala, land is already available for the orphanage, there is a huge need for orphanages, Vicki & Justin Shrock (Iowa) have the same vision for an orphanage, and we need prayer, prayer, prayer. My specific prayer request was for a prayer team to get organized and meet weekly thru August or September to seek guidance and direction regarding the orphanage. Possible prayer partners are Miriam Carpenter, Suzanne Bredow and Sue Yurick.

Gwen – June 16, 2009 – Guatemala - Dan and Heidi's kids all had the flu, and Heidi was with Haven at the hospital. Heidi could not meet with us that night. In our conversation with Dan, Aaron started by asking him where he was with an orphanage. He had so much more to say than we ever expected. He said, "the land that was donated was from one of the villages that we drive through to get to the base, and it has electricity and water. The brochure for Paradise Bound included James 1:27, and they always had a vision for an orphanage just waiting for the right timing from God and someone to get it started. (This is not Dan and Heidi's vision to start. They need someone else to spear head this.) Dan also said that a couple from Iowa (Justin and Vicki Shrock) was supposed to be down all summer, and they had an orphanage on their hearts too. (However, they just adopted twins and could not get passports for them, so they could not come this year.) We prayed and asked God for guidance. If this is meant to be, we will pursue it. Now seems to be a bad time, but if it is God's timing we are doing it. Dan also said that the mission base was built with a vision for a 2nd story, and this may be for people to stay who are adopting children. We asked Dan if there is a need for an orphanage. He said a big need. He knows of many kids in the villages that are orphans. Dan then asked us to lift him up in prayer for the summer. Because he has such a busy summer, he does not have the time to pray about this. So he wants us to pray for PB, them and the vision for where to go from here. We need to ask God to reveal himself to us. We left our talk very encouraged and committed to start a prayer group. Aaron and I were very excited to tell Rick and Kim all that we found out. We thought about who are prayer warriors that we know would pray with us. The list is Miriam Carpenter, Suzanne Bredow, Dede Wielhouwer, Roger Hoogewind, Rozelles and us. We scheduled our first meeting for July 9, 2009.

Suzanne – July 2, 2009 I received an email forward from my prayer partner Miriam Carpenter, with the original coming from Kim Rozelle. She and several others were thinking of opening an orphanage in Guatemala. On July 7, 2009 Kim called me, left a message to say they were having a prayer meeting and would I come. I called Kim back that day and told her my story about the “word” from God.

Kim - July 9, 2009 We had our first prayer meeting regarding the orphanage tonight. We had a small group (Rick, Suzanne, Aaron, Gwen and me) but it felt right. Prayer was heartfelt and powerful. We prayed for wisdom and discernment for each of us in this venture, that God would guide Dan and Heidi, give them wisdom and make it clear whether an orphanage is in His plan for Paradise Bound. We prayed that God would bring our church to support this orphanage, that He would keep us continually focused on Him and His will, and that God would show each of us how we fit in His plan and would open the doors necessary for this orphanage to happen. “Open Doors.” Nice name for an orphanage.

Gwen - July 9, 2009 At the meeting were Rick and Kim, Suzanne, and us. It was an amazing first meeting, and we realized that all of us feel God calling us to be personally involved with this orphanage. We left the meeting feeling that God is continually opening doors for this orphanage. A while back, when Ethan was hired at our church his parents and his girlfriends parents visited “The Well”. I met them both and Dana’s mom, Jill Rumberger. She was talking to Aaron and said she saw our blog and asked about our adoption. During their conversation, she told Aaron that she is very involved with an orphanage in Guatemala. We thought that was so awesome. (However it didn’t hit me until after Guatemala and after our prayer meeting that we should contact her about this orphanage.) I decided to call her. We had an amazing conversation. She told me all about how they ran the orphanage, how it was started, and how many kids are at this orphanage, etc. I called Kim with the information I got from Jill and she said, “we were talking and praying last night about how we would separate the kids and how to run an orphanage.” Jill told us that they separate by age, and they have 8 houses on the grounds and they are run like a family. They have a “mom” and “dad” (a married couple) who live at each house, they eat, and do everything as a family. They have a Christian school on site, a bakery, an auto mechanic class, and more. Jill sent me Donie Hernandez’s email to me. Donie started this orphanage, and Jill suggested that I write her about what is going on in our lives. She said this orphanage (the name is Casa Bernabe) is run so well. We again felt like God was opening a door.

Suzanne – July 9, 2009 That first prayer meeting consisted of Kim and Rick Rozelle, Gwen and Aaron VanManen and myself. We all shared the vision that God had given each of us. We discussed Dan and Heidi Smith in Guatemala, Paradise Bound Ministries, and a couple from Iowa who had the same vision. We then prayed for direction, guidance, and God’s will. It was an awesome prayer time.

Gwen - July 17, 2009 I emailed Donie, anxious to hear back. Almost daily the Lord has showed me something regarding loving orphans, others and following him. Heidi and I have been emailing, and she said that one day they were throwing candy out of the van to all the kids in the village, and Ben her son, said "mom, I think we should start a home for all the kids who don't have one." I really think that God is speaking to Dan and Heidi too. Aaron and I were talking and he said he just doesn't know where God wants him in this orphanage. What his role will be. So I prayed that he would know that this is what God wants for us, or to reveal what God wants if it's not this. When he got home from his trip he said "Guess what? We were helping the women and children at Roseland and a baby was crying. I picked up the baby and she stopped crying. At that point, I knew that if God wants me to hold babies all day and cook, I can do that."

Suzanne - July 17, 2009 - I received an email from Kim, saying she and Gwen were planning a trip to Guatemala in September or October. The purpose of the trip was to help clean, organize and restock the mission base, and to visit several Guatemalan orphanages. We agreed to pray for God's will.

Gwen - July 19, 2009- Mirf preached at the Well. One of his prophesies was specifically for Aaron. Mirf said "Aaron has dynamite inside of him, and God has some amazing things in store for Aaron and his family."

Kim - July 22, 2009 Second prayer meeting. Just Rick, Miriam and I (in our sunroom as it was cold outside) but it was good time together and with God. Cari and Anya joined us. We continued to pray that God's will would be revealed to us and to Dan and Heidi regarding an orphanage. We prayed for wisdom and discernment, not only for Dan and Heidi, but for Gwen and Aaron also, as this is a huge change for them, their children, and the rest of their family.

Kim - July 28, 2009 Third prayer meeting. Our group is growing! Aaron, Gwen, Miriam, Suzanne, Roger Hoogewind, Dede Wielhouwer, myself. Rick could not make it tonight. We brought Roger and Dede up to speed on what's been happening. We prayed once again for God to make clear His will for each of us, and for Dan and Heidi. Thanked Him for bringing others into our lives that have information and experience with orphanages. Prayed that God will let us know when to make this vision known to others.

Gwen - July 28, 2009 We had another prayer meeting. It was so hard to get together (Satan of course trying to stop us) but we had almost all of us, just Rick was missing. It was a beautiful and amazing night. We shared what had happened over the last few weeks, and had a time of prayer. I checked my email the next morning and I received an email from Donie, who started Casa Bernabe! She was very sweet in her email and wants us to visit them if this is where God is leading and if we do start an orphanage.

Suzanne - July 28, 2009 We had our prayer meeting. In attendance were: Gwen and Aaron VanManen, Kim Rozelle, Miriam Carpenter, Dede Wielhouwer, Roger Hoogewind and myself. We again shared how God had brought us all together. We then shared what had happened in the three short weeks since our previous meeting. We prayed for guidance, direction and God's will. We all agreed to journal our experiences.

Kim - August 7, 2009 Fourth prayer meeting. Aaron, Gwen, Suzanne, Dede, her husband Mike, Rick and myself. Miriam and Roger could not make it. We met in our screen tent with the rain lightly pelting the top. It was a warm evening, with just a gentle rain. It felt a lot like a Guatemalan evening. We continued to pray for God's guidance, that He would make it clear to us what His will is for our group, for Dan and Heidi, for an orphanage. At this point we see ourselves ready and just waiting for God to make His plan clear to us. Gwen, Aaron, Suzanne, Rick and I all have hearts saying "yes" and hands and feet ready to go if He but opens the doors.

Kim - August 19, 2009 Sixth prayer meeting tonight. Dede, Gwen, Aaron, Roger, Rick, Miriam, Suzanne and myself. Aaron and Gwen updated us on some new information they received from the Sliedrechts in Uganda and Greg Yoder with Christian World Outreach. Sliedrechts are very serious about opening an orphanage in Uganda and also about working with widows there. Greg Yoder says he has had plans for an orphanage in Haiti drawn up for 25 years. He counseled Aaron to stop praying "if" God wants us to start this orphanage, but "where" and "when." Tonight we prayed mostly for God to help us to see His plan. To open our hearts and minds to **His** plan....where, when, how.

Suzanne – August 19, 2009 – We had our prayer meeting at VanManen's house. After discussing going forward, we reiterated that we do not want to get ahead of God. We need to keep praying for direction. We also acknowledged that God has certainly answered Aaron's prayer to put together a prayer group.

Kim – August 23, 2009 – Dan and Heidi are in the states and have shown an interest in joining a couple of our prayer meetings.

Suzanne – August 26, 2009 – Prayer meeting at Rozelle's house. Present were Aaron & Gwen, Kim & Rick, Miriam Carpenter and me. I had completed the combined prayer journals thru August 23 and brought them to distribute. I am open to edit and suggestions for revisions of the combined journals. I also shared that I thought Satan was trying to throw us off track. I feel that God is leading us to Guatemala. I felt the thought of Uganda or Haiti seemed to not flow with the events and vision that we had received so far from God. We spent a lot of time in praising God for who he is. We prayed that he would keep us focused on Jesus, give us clear direction and give us the peace that passes all understanding.

Gwen - August 30, 2009 - Mirf preached at the Well- his last one. Spoke on Abraham Gen. 22 His prayer was that something that he said would speak to us. Oh yes it did. Gen. 22:14- So Abraham called the place ,”the Lord will provide.” And to this day it is said, ”On the mountain of the Lord it will be provided.” We are praying that God will reveal to us where to go. I feel like this verse has something to do with where to start an orphanage. On the mountain- is this Guatemala? Or a different place? Lord this week feels like a week of answers- Lead us Lord. Mirf’s Sermon- all about giving God everything- its impossible to outgive God.

Gwen - September 2, 2009 - Prayer meeting- It was such a powerful night. I received a email from Donnie(on Aug. 26 after our prayer meeting)from Casa Bernabe. She emailed me back from Aug. 2- my email was a closer email just saying that we are praying for where God is leading- and thanked her for emailing me. She wrote back just telling me she was praying for us. It was such an answer to prayer. That night we prayed for direction on where to go- and this email shows up. God is so good. Dan and Heidi shared where they were with an orphanage. Dan and Heidi are having their team praying for something to come with PB. They gave us insight on more land available, funds, cultural stuff and more. Dan stated that he would like to forward this to his board and Intercessors. He also said that an orphanage has been on Dan and Heidi’s heart for years, and this is God working. Dan also said this prayer group is a God thing too. God opened doors this week!!!

Suzanne - September 2, 2009 – Potluck dinner and prayer meeting at Rozelle’s house. Present were Dan & Heidi Smith from Guatemala, Paradise Bound, Aaron & Gwen, Rick & Kim, Miriam Carpenter, Roger Hoogewind and me. What at awesome night of sharing and prayer. Dan and Heidi shared their vision of the orphanage in Guatemala. They also answered many questions that the prayer-team members had. They see an orphanage in conjunction with the mission base. Starting out small with housing and the kids attending the local school; eventually growing into an orphanage community with schooling on site. They have had a vision of an orphanage or children’s center for many years. They suggested we get in contact with Michelle Janison, who has been to Guatemala many times and has done some research on the orphanages. They know many of the orphanage leaders and may help us. Aaron gave a brief summary of our group and prayer journal. Dan would like to read it and forward the journal to the Board Members of Paradise Bound Ministries and then to 700 prayer people. He has been having a team of people praying about “something big” that may happen with Paradise Bound in Guatemala. He would like the Board to prayerfully consider sponsoring the orphanage. Dan thinks that orphanage-related mission trips would be in the spring and fall, to not overshadow the youth-group building mission teams. Our prayer tonight was that we would just seek God, and everything else will work out in God’s timing. We will continue to meet and pray until God calls us into action. I feel we are one step closer to the orphanage becoming a reality.

Gwen - September 9, 2009 - Over the Labor day weekend, we met with Dan and Heidi. We talked about the orphanage and some specifics. Dan said that if we travel this year to visit orphanages in Guatemala, he will not be able to come. Dan and Heidi want to be part of visiting, and so do many of our prayer group. (many stated that they could not commit to getting off work to go this fall.) When we met Dan suggested that after the mission trip in January, they have a week between teams (a God thing) and suggested that we stay longer and visit orphanages; then Dan and Heidi and many of us could see the different orphanages. After their board meeting they will see if the board will approve starting an orphanage, and Dan would love to share this at the banquet on Oct. 20. As long as God is moving us forward we will start fundraising and figuring out a plan before the end of the year. We left Dan and Heidi’s house very encouraged and excited to see how much passion they had for this.

Gwen - Sunday September 6, 2009 - Aaron and I talked about the mission trip our church is going on to Guatemala Jan.26-Feb.2 and said that it would be best to go and visit orphanages after our trip and stay longer. It's another God thing. The majority of those on our prayer group are going on this trip and all want to stay to visit orphanages. We really didn't know what to do about the fact the our referral for our child will be soon (travel to Ethiopia is soon) and I am not signed up to go to Guatemala. Do I sign up and go, or fly down for the orphanage visit days. We prayed for guidance.

Gwen - Tuesday, September 8, 2009 – I talked to Kim. She needs to confirm who is going on the trip today. We took a step in faith and we both signed up, not knowing how to pay for it. This day is a day of searching and many questions on life came up. So we come to the prayer meeting tomorrow with many requests.

Suzanne – September 8, 2009 – I received a phone-call update from a meeting that Gwen and Aaron had with the Smith's over the past weekend. The PB Board consists of about 10 members. Dan wants the board to review the Journal and then meet with them the end of September to discuss going forward. There is a fund raising banquet on October 20, and we would like to start raising funds for the orphanage after that. There is a Guatemala mission trip being planned at RRC, January 26, 2010 thru February 2, 2010. I have been wanting to go, but unable to work out the finances. Someone at RRC has offered to fund my trip, so I am going. PTL!!!!!! When the mission trip ends on Feb. 2, there are several of us (Gwen, Kim, Miriam, Dan & myself) that are going to remain behind. We will spend a few days visiting orphanages in Guatemala. We plan to visit Casa Bernabe, which is the most successful orphanage in Guatemala.

Gwen - Wednesday, Sept. 9, 2009 - Prayer meeting at Aaron and Gwen's house- Suzanne, Miriam, Kim, Roger, Aaron and Gwen. We shared what had happened this week. Aaron and I had many prayer requests. Because of all the things that have happened in the past 2 weeks, we just didn't know what God wants us to do. Suzanne suggested we take one person in our prayer group and pray for them. This was a neat thing to do, and the Holy Spirit was working.

Suzanne – September 9, 2009 – Prayer meeting at VanManens. Present were Gwen & Aaron, Kim Rozelle, Miriam Carpenter, Roger Hoogewind & me. We all talked about the many things that have happened in the last few weeks. I felt that Satan was trying to discourage a few members of our prayer team, so I suggested we each pray for a fellow-team member. We prayed for encouragement and strength. We also prayed for the orphanage. It was a very powerful prayer night. We are all anxious to see where God leads us next.

Suzanne – September 16, 2009 – Prayer meeting at VanManens. Present were Aaron & Gwen, Roger Hoogewind, Miriam Carpenter and me. We praised God for all of the answered prayers we have received. We prayed for Dan Smith, that God would give him strength and energy for the "Isaiah Project." We also prayed for the Paradise Bound Board Members. We lifted Dan, Heidi & their children that God would protect them and renew them while they are home. We prayed for each

other and for the struggles we each are facing right now. The prayer meeting felt a little subdued. However, I think that may be a little “come down” after all the positive and exciting things that have been happening. God continues to work in each of us. We are all anxious to hear what will be our next step.

Suzanne - September 24, 2009 – Prayer Meeting at VanManens. Present were Aaron & Gwen VanManen, Kim Rozelle, Dan & Heidi Smith and me. We had such an exciting night of prayer and anticipation. Dan gave an update on the Isaiah Project. He could tell that there many prayers for him over the weekend. We discussed Paradise Bound’s Board Meeting set for Monday, September 28. We prayed for the board members. We prayed that God’s will be done regarding the orphanage. We also prayed about Guatemala and the opening of an orphanage. We prayed for Dan & Heidi and their children. We also discussed the possibility of Gwen & Aaron going to Casa Bernabe to be house parents; possibly for a year or two. Jill Strumberger approached them and said there were currently four openings for house parents. We prayed that God would give VanManens clear direction regarding this. We are all anxiously waiting to hear what the board members will say on Monday night.

Kim - September 25, 2009: We met at Gwen & Aaron's last night to pray. A small group (Gwen, Aaron, Suzanne, Dan, Heidi, myself) but heartfelt and powerful prayer. Exciting opportunities are presenting themselves and some decisions need to be made soon. Will Aaron and Gwen fill one of the openings for house parents at Casa Bernabe? Seems it would be a good thing to learn from those who are currently doing what we want to do, gain from their knowledge and experience. But they need the help at Casa Bernabe right now, much sooner than Gwen and Aaron were anticipating having to make the big move. Dan and Heidi have the opportunity to purchase a small piece of land they are currently leasing that is pivotal to future expansion of the ministry and an offer needs to be in by Monday. We prayed again for God's wisdom and guidance, that we might be truly discerning His will for His orphanage.

Gwen mentioned having read the parable of the talents, where the servants were each given some talents from their owner, either 1, 5 or 10. She had a revelation while reading it, that it was not merely just money given to the servants, but their gifts, skills, time they were expected to use wisely. Two weeks ago, on Friday September 11, while I was praying and journaling, I had the same type of revelation with the same parable. Though not reading it, I was praying and thanking God for the freedoms and opportunities we have in this land. For the fact that we can worship and serve him with very little persecution. We are so rich compared to most in this world. We have so much at our fingertips. And then an awful realization hit me, or perhaps not awful, but daunting? Terrifying? WE ARE ALL THE 10 TALENT SERVANT! Or at the very least, 5. God has given us so much and we must not simply bury it or do only the bare minimum with it. We must make it multiply, bear fruit. We have no right to simply take what he's given us and keep it to ourselves. We must reach out and do anything and everything we can, give everything we can, to further His Kingdom. We cannot bury any of the time, blessings, gifts and skills He has given us.

Dan Smith’s Letter to PB – September 21, 2009

Dear Board Members, Thank you for all your prayers and encouragement for the Isaiah Project! Now that the incredible weekend is over (or maybe just beginning in many people’s lives), I can bring everyone up to speed on what our next board meeting will entail. We will cover general items, such as reports, statuses, etc. but the essence of the night will be in discussing something that takes Heidi and I all the way back to the founding of Paradise Bound, and was in some of our original brochures. That of an orphanage. I would ask that though this email is long, and the attachment

journal (which will not make sense unless you read this first), will be read by yourselves prior to the board meeting on the 28th . Preferably read this and the attachment when you have time to digest the information thoroughly and prayerfully. That will save much time during the meeting, and allow you to pray through the information and form questions, etc prior to the meeting. I want to give you some background, but, before I begin please know that we are far from a decision, nor will we be asking for one in our next meeting. This will be the beginning of discussions, and we are looking to you as a board, and friends to come alongside us in prayer and seeking God's will for Paradise Bound and our lives. If it is HIS will that we do, or we don't open an orphanage, the journey together will be worth it. As mentioned, the idea of calling to the children of Guatemala was at the forefront as Paradise Bound was formed. When working with Danny Lafferty originally, before Heidi and I began on our own in Guatemala , we worked with their children's center. Though all those children went home each night, there were some who could have used additional care, and some whom their parents preferred to not come home. We had hoped within that ministry that we could begin to change that. However when we left Danny, our focus had to become the teams and getting people to Guatemala to change their lives, the lives of the Guatemalans and the financial side of having to build a support base. For years, the idea of a children's center/orphanage was put behind many other things. Yet, we had also maintained friendship with a couple who expressed that one day, once the husband was retired, that this couple would be interested in starting an orphanage and spending part of their year working with it. Talk had surfaced on many occasions, but being that retirement was off a ways, and we were busy with the building of the ministry, and then the new base, not much more than fleeting thoughts went into it. In fact, even this spring, an orphanage was far from our minds, but the following began to take place unbeknownst by us. Attached with this email is a prayer journal of a group of people specifically praying about opening an orphanage in Guatemala, or at least that is how it began. This group was formed because we received an email from Gwen & Aaron VanManen, the youth pastors at Rockford Reformed. We have known them among many others at Rockford Reformed, as that is where quite a few teams have come from in recent years. Briefly the email shared of their calling to start an orphanage, and were just opening this up to us. Within days we received another email from Kim Rozelle (board member with you) sharing her heart for the same, though we had known of Kim's heart for some time as she and her husband Rick are the couple mentioned in the previous paragraph who upon retiring were interested in beginning the orphanage. We were just in the process of wrapping up the new mission base and already preparing for the summer team and in no place to even think of such things, so I simply emailed back those thoughts, but that they should be in much prayer. We talked more when Rockford brought their youth group to Guatemala in June, and felt that the prayer circle should be widened. I knew I would not have the time during teams to do so, and I left it once again in these couples' hearts. They sought out others they knew who were gifted in prayer, and in July the prayer team formed and began meeting. The attached journal was condensed from much, much more information by one of the members of that prayer team so that they could track what God was doing and pray accordingly. Once I read it in early September, I knew that this was something each of you also needed to read. PLEASE read through the journal before the board meeting on the 28th keeping in mind that some of this information is personal, and other parts are confidential such as Aaron and Gwen being ready to leave their position as youth pastors, if/when an orphanage would form. The situation in Guatemala for orphans has never looked worse. Due to worldwide changes of adoption laws, coupled with a non-Christian president and corrupt government, Guatemala has been closed for adoptions. There have already been several orphanages that we have heard about that have closed their doors, because all their income (correct or not) came from adopting out the children. They had no or little outside funding. Other orphanages who have been around for years, are struggling financially like they never have before. Some of the best are being very honest that if something does not change, they will also be forced to close. Others, those who have sponsorship for each child, and only did limited adoptions are doing fine. These orphanages do not focus on adoptions, but rather on raising up Christian children and sending them back out among their own people once they

are adult. This would also be our goal, if God continues to confirm things. That of raising up children, with possibly limited adoption to Christian homes well screened.

If God confirms us to go forward over the next few months, I do not believe that we can go heavily to our current financial supporters with such a request on the heels of building. However, I do believe that many of them would come on board financially once they knew. The balance would be to maintain the general fund also. This is a time to spread beyond our current supporters, and I believe God has built the network of people around us to help with that (more at the meeting). Additionally, if God confirms His call to this, He will make provisions. Now with all this being said...Pray with us for the proper direction, questions, answers, but mostly that we remain in the center of HIS perfect will for each of us and for Paradise Bound. What I am seeing with the prayer group is that what started as a prayer group to start an orphanage has now become a group of people collectively seeking God's will for their lives, which may well involve an orphanage through Paradise Bound. That makes me content to see that it is not about the orphanage, but that it is about God's will! Lastly, I believe it is time to release very limited information to our Intercessors Email Group. Not release exactly what, but certainly that we encourage them to pray for you as a board and others involved with the decisions ahead. Additional agenda items and location will follow within a few days, but the orphanage will cover most of the night.

Gwen – October 1 - Present: Aaron and I, Roger, and Suzanne - We talked about the board meeting and what we have heard from Dan. (and Kim-very brief) Of course, the girls (including me) were a little discouraged with some of the info. But Roger and Aaron who have been part of a board before (Aaron was on the board for a Chr. World Outreach-did you know that?) said the questions they asked are exactly the type of questions they need to ask. So as we started to understand that, our fire started to grow. We talked about what had happened during the week. Suzanne had a devotional to share- of how we can enter his throne room when we pray and what a privilege this is. (Compared to other kings who of course you could never talk to) I had a few things to share: Our message on Sunday was on Acts 3:1-10- and talked about the lame man- and how he was viewed as nothing. He didn't even have a name mentioned. To look at the poor, homeless, and orphan not with pity, but with compassion. Help the poor, take them by the hand and take care of them. (I really felt like God was talking to me about the orphanage). Devos this week: Jeremiah 1:5-8 God has a purpose for each Christian, but some people are appointed by God for specific kinds of work. If God gives you a specific task, accept it cheerfully. If God calls us to a job, he will give us what we need to do it. It's amazing to see God work each week. I know he is calling us to starting an orphanage. Suzanne said that God has made me more in tuned to seeing and hearing all this as our call is more and more confirmed. I never looked at it like this. Also during the meeting- we looked at the different phases to starting an orphanage and talked about this as a group. I pray (in a selfish way and not a selfish way) that God is calling us to do this with Paradise Bound. Aaron and I really have enjoyed getting to know you, and we love your ministry and your hearts. .If it is Gods will- I pray the board meeting will be way more than we anticipated (FOR THE GOOD!) We are praying that the board allows October 20 to be the day to announce this orphanage. I am praying and continue to - whatever is his will that is what we want.

Suzanne - October 1, 2009 – Prayer meeting at VanManens house. Present were Gwen & Aaron, Roger Hoogewind and me. We discussed the outcome of the PB Board Meeting. The board had many questions for Dan. They have requested that Gwen & Aaron attend the next board meeting on October 19. They have been asked to bring a financial proposal regarding the orphanage. Aaron provided us with the rough draft and asked each of us to review it. We discussed the reaction of those in our personal families that have read the Prayer Journal. I shared an email I received from Andrew. Aaron shared Stephanie VanderHyde's reaction. Gwen shared Aaron's parent's reaction. The journal has stirred the hearts of many and is a testimony to the glory of God working in

individual lives. We prayed for the board members at PB, we prayed about orphans around the world, the orphanage and we acknowledged and thanked God for his work in our lives. Gwen & Aaron have sent an email to Donnie Hernandez at Casa Bernabe requesting information on being a house parent.

Aaron – October 2 - We met last night again to pray. Another spirit God filled night. Attached is a document which lays out some of the vision for the orphanage. Please take a look at it, if there are things that need to be added or subtracted, please let me know. The board has asked that Gwen and I come to the next meeting on Oct 19 to present this document to them. This will give them hard and fast facts as to where we see this orphanage going. The board will not see this before the 19th.

Suzanne - October 8 – Prayer Meeting at Rozelle's. In attendance were Kim, Roger, Gwen, Aaron and myself. Gwen & Aaron feel that the idea of going to Casa Bernabe for some training is no longer a possibility. That door was closed. We prayed about the Paradise Bound Banquet Dinner, that God's will be done regarding the announcement of the orphanage.

Gwen - October 8 - Prayer Meeting. I shared about a letter I received in the mail. It was from a dentist in Rockford who I worked for. They added a new Doctor to the office and in the letter is told all about him. The God-thing in this piece of mail is: He volunteered to be attached to the 153rd Air National Guard Medical Group for a humanitarian mission to Guatemala in July 2008, helping to bring medical care to over 6000 of the undeserved. Wow- God is good. What could this mean for this orphanage! During this prayer meeting we talked about Casa Bernabe and the possibility of being a house parent. I struggle with this, being a house parent and then leaving the kids behind. I am not so sure I can do this. I pray that God will reveal what he wants. During the week coming into the prayer meeting, I read Matt. 28:16-20. The great commission-go out into the world and tell others about Jesus. We MUST GO- not an option- it's a command.

Gwen – October 16 - I am getting nervous for the board meeting. I prayed that God would tell me what to say. I knew the meeting was going to answer some questions for us. So I prayed God's will be done!

Gwen - October 19, 2009 - Aaron and I went before the board of Paradise Bound and poured out our hearts. I shared about my life, adoption testimony and our orphanage testimony. Aaron shared about himself also. I had been rehearsing for this. I prayed that the Holy Spirit would speak through me and that all I said was what He wanted me to say. We shared what we thought the orphanage would look like, how we would care for the children physically and spiritually. The board has some amazing people on it, and they asked great questions regarding the orphanage. One board member summed up best: we have Aaron and Gwen who are called by God to work with an orphanage. We have Paradise Bound who now have the new base and room for more ministry opportunities, we just need to see if Aaron and Gwen and PB are a fit. Lord we give it to you- speak to us and continue to open doors.

Suzanne - October 20, 2009 – Paradise Bound Banquet Dinner – What an awesome night of God happenings. There were several young people who shared their experiences in Guatemala. They all had life-changing stories. We had some wonderful worship times with great music. Dan spoke about his vision for Guatemala. Toward the end of the evening, a 4 minute DVD was played. The DVD showed images of children in Guatemala, giving statistics about the number of orphans, the number

of street kids, the average life expectancy of street kids, malnutrition in Guatemala, etc. It ended with the announcement of "Open Doors Orphanage," a new venture for Paradise Bound Ministries. There are many questions that need to be answered, but encouraged everyone in attendance to be in prayer about it.

Gwen – October 20 - The celebration dinner for PB! Had a amazing band to praise our God, and Dan talked about orphans and the statistics of Guatemala. The devastating facts about children, and how it has been on their hearts for 12 years. Dan ended the night with showing the DVD of children in Guatemala, and the need for an orphanage. We are praying for God to continue to direct out paths.

Aaron – October 21 – Monday night was the board meeting with us and the board. The meeting went very well. The board asked good questions about the future of the orphanage. Questions really having to do with what happens down the road. The board is giving very positive feedback and encouragement. The board gave Dan approval to share the open doors that have been going on in the development at the Paradise Bound dinner on Tuesday night. At the dinner Dan shared that Paradise Bound was going through open doors that God had been preparing. He asked for prayer from the intercessors and showed a 4 minute video promoting the orphanage and partnership of Paradise Bound. He got great feedback and support. I had the opportunity to take Dan to Detroit airport this morning, it was wonderful to talk and keep things rolling. The board had asked Dan to research the paperwork it will take to become an orphanage. The ball will be rolling and things will be moving forward until we encounter a closed door

Gwen - Oct. 22 2009- At the prayer meeting Aaron and I said we feel like now is the time to tell others about the orphanage. Earlier in the week Aaron had talked with Roger and he felt it was time too. Aaron had sent the prayer team a rough draft letter that would go to consistory. We discussed this, and Aaron had already talked with Pastor Rick and we planned to talk in front of church on Sunday (Oct.25) and tell our faith journey and what God has been doing in our lives. Consistory received the letter on Friday by email.

Gwen - October 23 - Spoke with Dede today, she always has such good insight on things. As we talked she told me that Noah has been on her heart. Noah obeyed God and built a ark in the middle of a desert. Noah had no clue how to get the animals in the ark, he just obeyed God and built it. God brought all the animals to him. -This is the same as with the orphanage. We need to obey God and follow what he calls us to, and he will send us the children.

Gwen - October 24 - In my prayer journal I wrote- "as we share tomorrow at church make this about you. Let them not see Aaron and I but that is You. Open RRC's eyes. I know questions will come up but I have faith in you to control everything. I lay it at your feet." Just read Mark 8 and God cares for everything, big or small. He listens always and loves us so much.

Gwen - October 25 - The Lord is sending me verses of encouragement when others come against me. Jeremiah 16:19 'O Lord my strength and my fortress, my refuge in time of distress. God is my security and protection." Shared with church at all 3 services about what Faith in Action means to us, and explained about our adoption and orphanage testimonies. We also watched the DVD that was shown at the banquet.

Gwen - October 26 Another step forward-Dan emailed Aaron and said the orphanage DVD needs to go on the web page of Paradise Bound. Dan was also going to be sending out an email to all the Intercessors regarding the banquet and that we need prayer for this orphanage.

Aaron - October 26 - Father the day after stepping out of the boat. The day after telling the church we are opening doors to an orphanage and will stay on staff until May. Is there disappointment with the response, yes. So it must be of God because people aren't sure what to say and how to say it. Father I pray now that those who read the journal will see you working and not us as your servants. That they will look and read with open hearts and mind to find you. Lord my prayer is not that they agree or disagree; support or not support. Father my prayer is that they find you in a deeper and more real way. Jesus I love you and I praise you for the leading you are doing. Now Jesus, I pray for a heart and mind and attitude like Noah. Father help me to persevere as Noah did.

Aaron – October 26 - I just received an email from Dan down in Guatemala. Very encouraged with the support from last Tuesday but discouraged with the work it will take to become registered. He has a few meetings coming up. It appears to be a lot of work. We need to pray against Satan and for Open Doors and soft hearts in the Government. Dan really sees a need and desire to expand the prayer team into different groups in different cities praying the same night of the week. I agree with that. The more people we can get engaged now, the better it will be down the road. We are at a point that people want to come along side and keep praying and working towards this.

Aaron - October 27 - Father I pray that I may see your plan of an orphanage, your plan of helping kids. Jesus, help me to put details and things of this earth before you and trust your vision and your plan. Father I pray for your work on the lives of people in Guatemala to see you and pass paperwork through in a way that they don't know how it happened. God I pray for an open door in government to see how they can look good by helping more kids coming off the streets. God show them yourself as they hear what Open Doors is about. Father give Dan peace and open meetings with people he sees and talks with. Father continue to break my heart for the kids here and kids there. Work Jesus work.

Aaron – October 28 -Lord I praise you for Dede for the encouragement she is in my life, the joy she brings to other peoples lives, and just the blessing she is. God thank you for her and her wisdom to me through your word. Father today I claim victory in your name over Satan, there are many earthly obstacles in front of us in regards to an orphanage. You Father are authority over all those, so I pray today for walls to be torn down, meetings with the right people and your authority over all things. Father I claim this in your name. Thank you Lord for setting up this orphanage and making it real.

Dan Smith – October 28 – Excerpt of letter to PB Intercessors - Our evening ended with even more tears now streaming down my face and the faces of most held captive by our Lord and His calling within our hearts as a 4 minute DVD unveiled where God has been at work, not only in our lives, but in the lives of hundreds of you! It was been amazing to see God uniting us with so many others who share this same passion. Through the incredible technological advancements of this age (when they work), most of which I understand little of, we can share with you this same clip utilized Tuesday night. However, before you watch it, there are a few things you need to know, and many you will not know...at least for now. What you will see is where we feel we are being led as a ministry. It is a calling that brings us back to the

very roots of our calling to Guatemala, and something that we have never lost, even in the midst of our Lord building Paradise Bound to what it has become. Also know that the ministry teams that we have had the privilege to lead over the last decade will continue, this new venture for all of us will add to the blessings of our Lord as yet another outreach in Guatemala, and thus to you. But I am getting ahead of myself. Though we are discerning as a board of directors God's will in this new area, final decisions have not been made. However, we feel enough doors have opened and we have witnessed God moving among so many of you already, that it is time we bring all of you alongside us on our knees and before our Lord! Answers will come, not because we seek the, but because we seek the ONE who gives them!!!

Dan Smith – October 29 - I want to share with you some things that "just happened" today. Of all things, it was through some powdered milk, especially made for malnourished children, that was given to us by another missionary last year. It was 25lbs and we are now almost out, so today I stopped by his house. I "happened" to catch him home and had a nice chat. No milk, I would have to go through Orphan Recourses International, as they produce it (now have their contact name and email and know that they help with beans, rice, etc to orphanages). However he said that they usually only give or sell at cost to orphanages, thus the conversation turned quickly to where God is calling us. The other missionary lit up and began to share of an old widow and missionary named Ginny Walker here in Guatemala. He simply said that I need to talk with her sometime but when I told him I was leaving Sunday, he jumped up, grabbed his phone and called her. She could not talk then, but asked that I call her this evening, which I did. Ginny is 73 years old, been a missionary in Guatemala for 26 years, had children's home (orphanage) but due to her age, etc has "suspended" her work and will be retiring soon. She still has the Association (non-profit) paper work in place and wants that to go to someone who is working with children, and/or an orphanage. What would this mean to us? An incredible jump ahead on the paperwork and likely a savings of thousands of dollars. Yesterday we received from our accountant/lawyer all the info to start our own home...it is extremely overwhelming, ever changing, and getting worse as. I spent almost 45 minutes on the phone with her, really just getting to know each other. The other missionary I met with that gave me her name, already warned me that she is very cautious and does not make decisions fast, which she displayed as we talked. She said several other organizations have already contacted her, but that nothing really clicked. We will likely not get together before I leave for the states, due to time conflicts in her schedule and mine. But, this is where we left it, almost simultaneously saying it over the phone..."Let's leave this in prayer!!!" Lift Ginny up in prayer that if this is of the Lord, that it would become very clear to each of us, including their board of directors, and ours. Oh, and this is the name of their children's home...Refugia la Puerta (door of refuge). I'll leave you with that, and hope it encourages each of us even more in our Lord and the work HE is already accomplishing!!!

Gwen - October 29 - Got some negative comments about the orphanage, which I knew was going to come but it didn't make it easy to handle. I was hurt and felt defeated, then I received the letter from Dan, the Intercessors letter and the Lord gave me encouragement. I know through prayer this is HIS will for our lives. I want to go where he leads and not be led astray by others.

Suzanne - October 29, 2009 – I received a phone call from Aaron today, giving an update of Dan's trip to Guatemala. It seems there is an orphanage currently being run by an elderly woman named Ginny. She is ready to semi-retire and wants to transfer her orphanage papers to someone that God leads her to. Dan talked with her and shared the desire to open an orphanage under Paradise Bound. They agreed to pray about it. This is a huge God leading, since the paperwork necessary to start an orphanage from scratch is a very long, tedious and time consuming process. Praise the Lord!!!!

Kim – October 29 - Praise God!!! Why are we always surprised and amazed at the workings of our awesome God??? If this orphanage experience has taught me anything, it's not to be surprised anymore at God's amazing works, but to EXPECT them!

Gwen – November 5 - Prayer Meeting - Everyone was present including Dan and Heidi, except Dede. The meeting was amazing and very exciting. Dan was back from his time in Guatemala, and had so much to say. I wasn't expecting anymore information than the letter he sent us. So it was so exciting to see all the doors that God has continually been opening. WOW- our God is bigger than anything we know or can ever imagine. We have so much to pray about. Dan gave us so much information I am still processing it. God is so GOOD!

Suzanne - November 5 – Prayer Meeting at Rozelles. In attendance were Gwen, Aaron, Kim, Rick, Roger, Miriam, Dan, Heidi and myself. It was a terrific evening of sharing all that has happened since the Banquet. Dan relayed to us (with permission to share) that he had an overwhelming response to the Open Doors Orphanage DVD. He then gave information regarding his quick trip back to Guatemala. He met with his staff at the mission base and shared about the orphanage. They are behind this and are praying about it. He visited a fellow-missionary about some supplies and the topic of an orphanage came up. He said that a woman named Ginny was retiring and looking for someone to take over her orphanage papers. Dan talked with Ginny for about 45 minutes that evening. She is a woman of prayer and told Dan that they both should pray about this. We all shared the overwhelming response that each of us has received about people wanting to donate money, supplies and time to the orphanage. The PB board will be meeting again soon to seek God's guidance on His direction for the organization. We had a long prayer time, focusing on the orphanage, the orphans and street kids in Guatemala, we prayed for Dan and Heidi, for Gwen & Aaron and their kids. We prayed that God would open doors for the orphanage to begin fund raising and building. We continue to thank God for all that he has done. We pray that God's will and timing would be done. We marvel at how big God is.

Dan Smith – November 8 - Today, Sunday November 8th is Orphan Day. As we continue seeking God leading for Paradise Bound regarding Open Doors Orphanage, pray with us this special day. A day of crying out for those who cannot. A day our Lord cries out, "Whom shall I send, and who will go for us?" May it not fall on deaf ears and hearts today. Spend some time with your family, with your children and pray for those who have never, and may never (without your prayers) experience the Love we have been so gifted with!

Dan Smith – November 10 – Excerpt From Letter to Intercessors - Ginny Walker has been a missionary in Guatemala for 26 years and has maintained ministry in various facets even at 73 years young. One of those was a girls home, which she has recently closed due to some changes within their ministry. Through your prayers, my path and Ginny's crossed (unrepentantly, in human thinking) while I was in Guatemala. Ginny still has the Government licensing for the Girls home which if we

move forward with Open Doors Orphanage under Paradise Bound, Ginny's paperwork would save possibly a year of red tape, and thousands of dollars. However, Ginny is a dynamic woman of prayer and though she wants this license to go to another mission, will not be making any quick decisions.

She and her board are in prayer regarding Paradise Bound, and of course we need to be in prayer for Ginny, not that she gives us the paperwork, but that our Lord's will is clear in Ginny's heart. If it is our Lord's will for us to receive the license, AWESOME, if not AWESOME, either way, if we are in prayer with this incredible servant of God, great things will happen regardless of the decision of where the paperwork is finally given! Open Doors Orphanage was a name adopted by our prayer team as God continues to open doors way out in front of us, as well as the significance of open doors to those children who right now make their existence on the street, or mothers who do not know where to turn with a new baby, and so many more we don't even know of yet. Here is a short list of other "open doors" and opportunities: Hundreds of beds available to Paradise Bound in TX (looking for a trucking company to transport, or a way to store them in TX); Graphic designers coming alongside us to help; Web designers also wanting to help; Other orphanages and individuals willing to help us through the overwhelming processes; Financial contributors straining at the gate; Building teams already wanting to form; Emails from so many of you on the desire to be involved (see below)...and on and on as God continues to open so many doors. On other fronts of Open Doors, our prayer team continues to meet every Thursday! However, we are feeling that this same model started in Rockford for Paradise Bound and Open Doors is ready to explode among others also. We have received a tremendous amount of emails from many of you regarding a desire to become involved "somehow"! What an incredible problem for us to have...hundreds of you just wanting to do something for our Lord!!! Many of those writing emails are seeking how they can become involved with the orphanage, however we as a board are still in the decision stage of Open Doors and thus prayers at this point are needed so much more than anything else...just as they continually are within Paradise Bound! With that being said, we are opening an invitation for additional prayer teams to begin forming wherever you live!

Simply email us your desire to be involved (we hope on Thursday evenings at 7PM, but can be flexible), and we will send you the information and begin joining those interested into geographic prayer teams. I also wanted to take a few moments and thank you for your prayers with my recent trip to Guatemala. A tremendous amount of things came together within our staff, for the upcoming winter teams, and in regard to investigating for an orphanage. Lastly, whether physically in a geographical prayer team for Paradise Bound or not, know that you are spiritually! This intercessor group list of now over 800 is in itself such an incredible source of prayer, that not one of us could ever begin to imagine! God is accomplishing so much within Paradise Bound, but also within the hearts of each of those praying. Commit yourselves to prayer and ALWAYS incredible things happen...most often within that very same person uttering those prayers! Know that each of you is an intricate part of what we do in our Lord!

Suzanne – November 9, 2009 – I received an email from Kim today. Our itineraries and flights to Guatemala are confirmed.

Aaron—December 1, 2009—Had our prayer meeting tonight while the board of Paradise Bound was meeting, the time was filled with prayer for wisdom and direction for the board. After 10pm, received a call from Dan saying that the board approved moving forward with the orphanage plans. Another part of Gods' plan coming together. One bit of wisdom shared at the meeting was that, the orphanage needs to move forward with a plan around God's vision and not mans. Meaning the orphanage cannot go forward based on certain people leading it, it has to move forward based on God leading and raising up the right people to be around it.

Aaron—December 10, 2009 – Prayer meeting, we were blessed with Seed money to get the orphanage going, all the bank account info has been set up and we can officially accept donations for the orphanage.

Aaron--December 21, 2009— Where do I begin, Why has God chosen us to be apart of his plan? We are receiving confirmation of the orphanage almost daily. God has been working in many peoples lives to prepare many of us to work as a team to make the orphanage a reality. People 2,4,6 years ago had ideas to help children in Guatemala and now are seeing that God was working in them to be apart of the team as we move forward. Our advisory team is being made and will have our first meeting in January. Praise the Lord for his work in many lives.

PRAYERS...