

# All Other Ground is Sinking Sand

The  
Micah  
Project  
December  
2012  
Letter

*The stone that the builders rejected has become the cornerstone...  
(1 Peter 2:7)*

Saturday September 8th started out as a normal day for the Micah boys. Our staff divides up the responsibility of covering weekends at the Micah House, and on that beautiful, sunny Saturday, our Honduran missionaries Marlon and Nohemi Castellanos were planning to take the boys to a park in the mountains outside of Tegucigalpa. There's nothing our guys love more than a day of swimming and soccer! Sixteen-year-old Hector, our resident goalie, was scrambling around the Micah House in the minutes before departure trying to remember where he had left his cleats and goalie gloves when one of the other guys informed him that his dad was at the front door.

We love Hector's dad and appreciate him SO much... he is really one of the only fathers in our boys' lives that has a positive influence on his son. Though it is true that Hector spent many years on the streets, he always maintained some contact with his dad Jorge, who lost one leg in an accident years ago, and who struggles to survive day-by-day selling water on a street corner. Even so, he often finds time to make it to the Micah House to visit with his son.

That morning though, Jorge had not come to the Micah house to chat. While selling water early that morning, he had developed a severe pain in his chest and had hobbled up the hill to the Micah House to see if we could give him some money to go to the hospital.



Hector's father, Jorge

Hector with his dad and step-mom shortly after he moved into Micah



Hector walked into our front room to greet his dad but found him instead writhing on the floor in pain. He ran to get help, and he and a couple of our stronger boys carried his dad to our pick-up truck. Our missionary Marlon rushed him to the hospital, while Hector sat in the back seat with his dad. They made it to the emergency room but, a few minutes later, Jorge died of a massive heart attack. He was 45.

Hector's dad's sudden death left this 16-year-old with no immediate family. His mom had been struck and killed by a car when he was just a toddler and his only brother was murdered on the streets last year. What a soul-crushing, devastating blow his dad's death would be. How could this kid, as much as he has grown in his years at the Micah Project, possibly handle another tragedy? Surely this would cause him to sink into despair...

*Wouldn't it?*

Hector got back to the Micah House several hours later, having been to the morgue with Marlon to make burial arrangements. When he walked onto the interior patio of the Micah House, exhausted and in shock, the other boys immediately rushed to him and surrounded him in a group hug. They stood together silently, letting Hector cry on their shoulders one-by-one. And for the next 24-hours, as we held an all-night wake for Hector's dad and buried him the next day, as is the custom in Honduras, the guys did not leave his side. Every single one of the fourteen Micah guys and eleven Timothy house young men have experienced more tragedy in their youth than most people do in a lifetime; they implicitly know that "there is a time to weep and a time to laugh / a time to mourn and a time to dance." They would stand with Hector in his time of mourning.

We have seen a lot of tragedy in our years ministering through the Micah Project, and watching Hector bury his dad was certainly one of the hardest. But what will stick with me for a long time to come is not the memory of holding onto Hector while he cried over his dad's grave... not that aching, hollow sense of loss. No, what I will remember for years is a prayer that Hector wrote on his Facebook page just a couple of hours after coming back to the Micah House from the cemetery. He wrote...

*"I want to thank God for being so good to me. Thank You, Lord, for giving me such a beautiful family at Micah - a family that will be with me now and forever. God, I give you a thousand thanks for your goodness - You have shown me so much that I didn't know before. I LOVE YOU, GOD. You have made me a new person, and I will be your son forever. Thank you for the people that have supported me in my moments of sadness. A thousand thanks, Lord "*  
*-Hector Mendez*  
*9/9/2012*



The Micah boys surround Hector at his father's funeral

In this one heartfelt prayer on that terrible day, Hector's words simply, profoundly and perfectly described the mission of the Micah Project. We exist to provide a solid foundation for boys that only knew the miry muck of neglect and addiction, of loss and sorrow. The foundation of the Micah House is built on the solid, unmovable stones of hope, of brotherly love, of forgiveness and second chances... of the brokenness and redemption that is the body of Christ. In his moment of unspeakable grief, Hector knew deep down that he was safe in the arms of his Micah family... and that we are a family that is set on an unshakable foundation.

We are anchored on a perfect Cornerstone. The words that the Apostle Paul wrote to the gentiles that were just coming to know Christ echo through the ages and seem to describe our boys perfectly: "...you [Hector, Miguelito, Wilmer, Nelson...] are no longer foreigners and strangers, but fellow citizens with God's people and also members of his household, built on the foundation of the apostles and prophets, with **Christ Jesus himself as the chief cornerstone**"

*(Ephesians 2:19-20)*



Hector smiles at the construction site for Micah 2.0

The fact that Hector, who once would have fled his bitter reality in the fumes of yellow shoe glue, was able to absorb such terrible tragedy by setting both feet on this Chief Cornerstone; that he was able to experience Christ's profound love in the arms of his Micah brothers. . . that is nothing short of a miracle.

I have been thinking much about foundations lately. For the last two months, I have been watching the foundation of the new Micah House take shape out on our property at Micah 2.0. It is impressive to see dump trucks roll on to the land with a load full of 80-pound stones, and to see our workers expertly hefting a stone out of the pile and laying it into place in the foundation of the house. How many thousands of stones it takes to build a foundation that will anchor our new home in place for decades to come!

Let me say this: **you are the stones that have anchored the Micah Project for the last thirteen years.** God has used *you* to be an extended family for these boys that had drifted away from their families. . . or had lost them completely. He has used the funds you have given to allow us to build up these young lives to a higher and higher place: just ask our college graduates what they have been able to accomplish thanks to the way you have supported them over the years! He has used your prayers to keep our younger boys away from the temptations that would take them back to street life and the dangers that surround them on a daily basis.

Most importantly, He has used you to keep us anchored to our Chief Cornerstone, the One who not only sustains the Micah Project in the here-and-now, but also anchors our boys for eternity! It is my prayer that you see your investment in the Micah Project as advancing God's kingdom in these young lives; that when you read Hector's words of hope on the day of his dad's burial, you realize that you played a vital role in seeding that hope in his life.

Next year will be a huge one in the life of the Micah Project. We will move into our new home out at Micah 2.0, which will be a **much better** foundation on which to continue to raise these boys. Pedro and José will graduate from college; Yeison and Juan Carlos from high school. New boys will leave the streets and join the Micah family, and will begin to know their precious Cornerstone for the first time.



We ask that you joyfully consider being a stone in the firm foundation of the Micah Project for this coming year. Your year-end giving is so important for us to be able to have the funds to operate through the coming year. And, if you are able to give over and above what you would normally give towards our operations, we would ask that you consider a gift towards the continued development of Micah 2.0. At print, we are almost halfway to our goal of raising 1.7 million dollars to build the various ministry facilities on our new site!

You have stood with us as we have watched God's mighty hand work in these boys for the past thirteen years; it seems a bit trite for me to end by saying "thank you for your support." But please know that the solid foundation that you have provided for us throughout the years causes us to praise the name of the Lord and to thank Him for your lives every single day.

May we continue to stand firm on Christ, our solid Rock.

Su hermano en Cristo,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads 'Michael S. Miller'.

Michael Miller





On November 17th, Nelson, Miguelito, Luis, Maicol and Hector graduated from sixth grade.

*Hector's original post in Spanish:*

“Quiero agradecer Dios por ser tan amable con migo gracias senior por darme una familia tan linda como la que tengo ahora y para siempre Dios mil gracias tu bondad me has demostrado muchas cosas que no conozco TE AMO DIOS tu me has hecho una nueva persona senior soy hijo tuyo para siempre y gracias a las personas que me apoyaron cundo estaba en los momentos de triztesa que estuvieron con migo mil gracias Dios”

[www.micah2point0.org](http://www.micah2point0.org)

