

HE LIVES
HERE





WHEN ALL YOU HAVE IS **FAITH...**

Four-year-old Kenia lost her father recently. Gang members killed him for his car. Since then, this sweet-natured Honduran girl has been spending lots of time with her grandmother, Maria.

Kenia is learning how to cook at her grandmother's side, but she is also learning how to pray and have faith in God. Trying to survive amid dire poverty, they have little else they can rely on. Kenia likes to pretend and make her own "tortillas" out of mud. She holds them up to the light to dry, dreaming they were real food to eat.

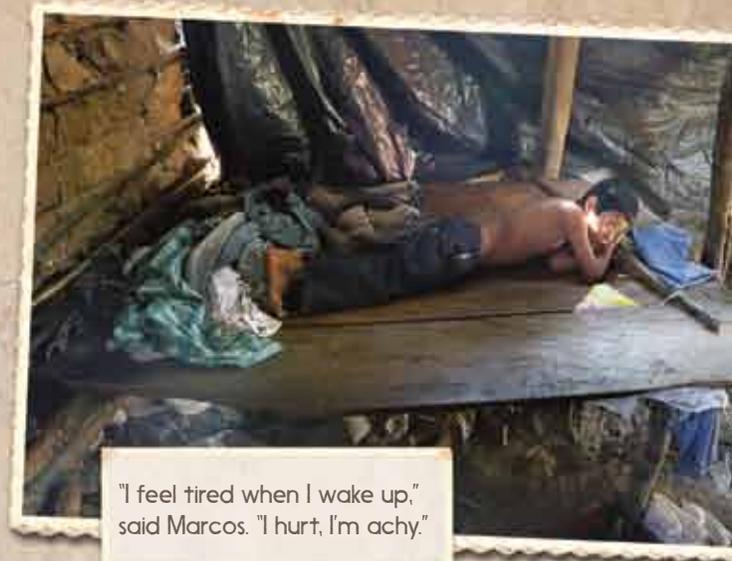
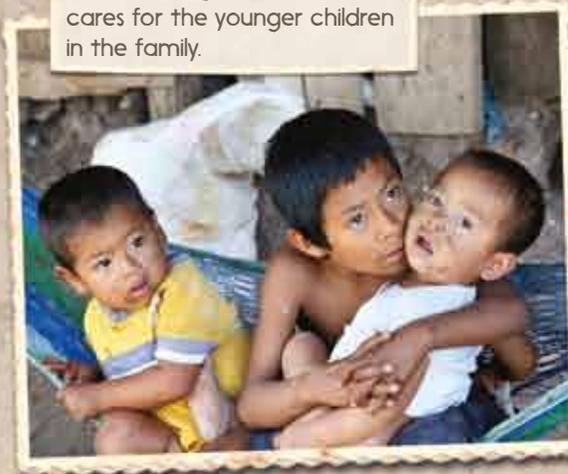
"When you are poor, there is no such thing as better," Maria said.

Kenia imitates her grandmother, making tortillas from mud and pretending to cook.

Maria wishes life could be different for Kenia, and for all her other children and grandchildren. Maria has lived in this shack made of sticks and mud for over 30 years, and it pains her to have to watch her children and grandchildren suffer living here. Her husband works cleaning chicken coops, but it barely covers feeding the family - let alone providing for a sturdy home.

Her 8-year-old son, Marcos, is constantly in pain throughout the night from sleeping on wood planks covered with pieces of clothing

Marcos lovingly comforts and cares for the younger children in the family.



"I feel tired when I wake up," said Marcos. "I hurt, I'm achy."

he spreads out to form a makeshift mattress for his whole family to sleep on. To keep the clothing from falling off the bed at night, he fastens a gardening hoe across the planks and ties it down so that the clothes won't slide off the end of this makeshift bed.

Little Marcos and his family suffer greatly living in these conditions. The rain makes things even more miserable. "If it's raining at night, we get up and look for a place that isn't getting wet, but when the wind blows



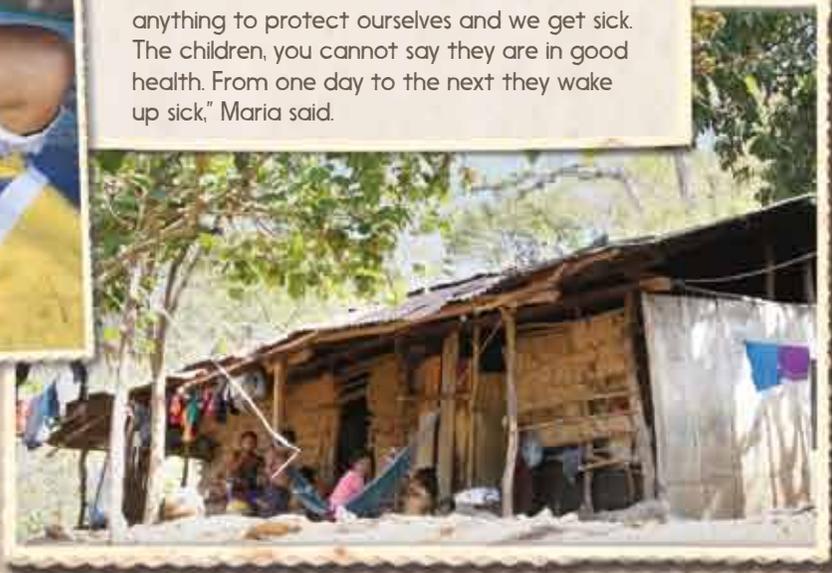
and it's raining hard, the whole house gets wet. We find a corner. We stand because the wind and rain are so strong," Maria said. The family must also endure sleeping with biting insects and rodents. "The bugs come in at night, mosquitoes mostly. Mice, too, there are a lot of mice," said Maria.

To make matters even worse, the main support beam for the entire house is slowly being chewed away by termites, making the home dangerously unstable. In addition, the home has no sanitation facility or running water. Their main water source is about a

"Every night I go on my knees to pray to God to keep my children safe because I know we are poor. I feel the love of God. The love of God is beautiful. Even though I don't have a lot, but for God it's enough," Maria said.



"When the cold weather comes we don't have anything to protect ourselves and we get sick. The children, you cannot say they are in good health. From one day to the next they wake up sick," Maria said.



six-block walk from their house. "We go to the woods for the bathroom and we bathe and wash our clothes in the river," Maria said.

The rain, biting insects, and the rodents are not welcome in Maria's tiny, unsafe shack, but Jesus is. ***Jesus lives here alongside Maria and her family. He is with them.***

your gift for homes will be multiplied four times to bring security and comfort to many families like Maria's. ❖

You can help answer the prayers of Maria and others like her praying for a safe home by giving a gift for housing today. Right now,

"Now to Him who is able to accomplish far more than all we ask or imagine..."
(Ephesians 3:20, a)

WHEN **GOD** IS YOUR STRENGTH

"I (would) like her to grow up and be in a good environment," said Barbara, Briahanna's mother. Every night, Barbara prays that God will bless her family. "I ask God to just stand by my side with me and my children..."

Briahanna, 6, prays for a house and dreams of it being painted her favorite color. "A big blue house," she said. "Because I want to live there with my mother and brother."

But the shack Briahanna shares with her family is neither big nor blue. It's made of mangled tin sheets and rotten wood, and the only door barely closes, let alone locks. Briahanna's mother, Barbara, was forced to move the family to this dilapidated shack months ago after her family abandoned them.



In her "big blue house," Briahanna says, "I'd sit and write and do anything."

With large cracks in the walls, you can see right through the shack to the other side. The roof is held down by two concrete blocks so it won't blow off. When it rains, water muddies the worn scraps of cardboard that cover the dirt floor. It's cramped inside. There's no toilet or running water.

Still, here in this shack, Jesus lives.

While sitting on the only bed they all share, Briahanna and Barbara recite the Lord's Prayer together. But at the end, Briahanna adds: "And Jesus will... help my mother do something."





Briahanna lovingly cares for her mother and often reminds her to take her pills. "Me help her when she sick," Briahanna said. "Because I love her, me... do everything she want me to do."



The conditions in the home often make the family sick. There are gaping holes in the roof, and the bed frequently gets wet. When it rains, they cannot sleep.

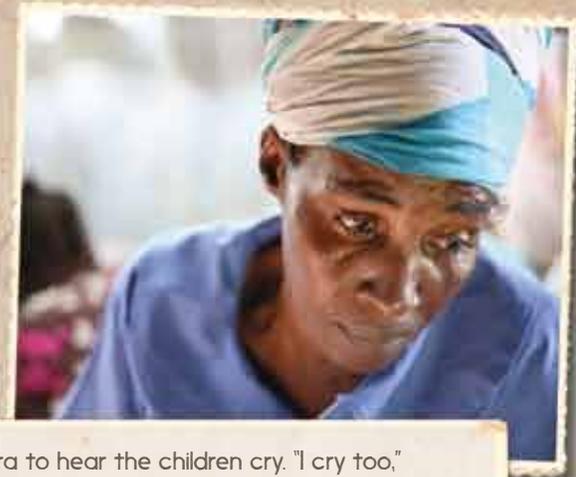
Barbara used to work, but she suffers from rheumatic heart disease, which has become so serious that her doctor told her she must stop to protect her health. Even worse, the medicine she needs to live is too expensive for Barbara to purchase on a regular basis. Barbara's illness makes her too weak to do much of anything. While gazing at her children, Barbara's eyes welled with tears. "I can't help," she said, sadly. "I can't even wash clothes."

Living in these conditions is also scary. The neighborhood is unsafe, and the shack has no locking door, "I'm afraid somebody come kill us," said 13-year-old Victor, Briahanna's brother.

Without any means of support, Barbara and her children beg neighbors for food and money for Barbara's medicine.

Sometimes, Barbara feels like giving up, but she relies on her strong faith. "I find my strength in the mercy of God," Barbara said.

With Briahanna on her lap, Barbara reads Psalm 70 aloud. Her voice cracks over the chapter's final verses. *"...May those who long for your help always say, 'God be glorified!' Here I am, afflicted and poor. God, come quickly!"*



It hurts Barbara to hear the children cry. "I cry too," Barbara said. "I tell them God will take care of everything."

You can help answer Barbara's desperate prayers. You can help this family have a home that's safe and secure. Won't you please make Briahanna's dreams come true, and give her the big blue house that she hopes and prays for? Right now, **your gift for homes will be multiplied four times** to help bring safe shelter to many more families like Barbara's. ❖

"The Lord is my strength and my shield, in whom my heart trusted and found help." (Psalm 28:7, a)

LAST YEAR, **YOU** GAVE MAUDIEL AND HIS FAMILY A NEW HOME – AND A NEW LIFE!

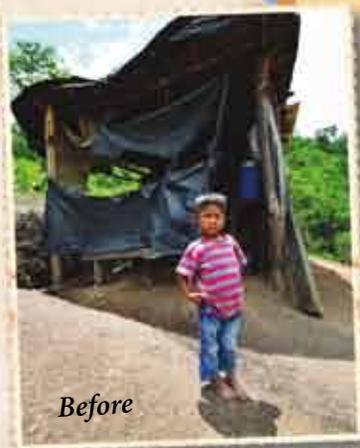


Maudiel and his family once lived in a crumbling shack in Nicaragua, that Maudiel's dad, Nicolas, was constantly trying to fix by plugging the holes in the walls when it rained.

But now, thanks to your generous compassion, Maudiel's family has a new house with a door that locks and a bathroom!

Nicolas wishes he could thank you in person. If he could talk to you directly, he said he would say: *"I would tell them thanks to God and thanks to you for your good heart."*

So many other families like Maudiel's pray and wait for solid, secure homes. Won't you please help today? **Your gift for homes for families living in Nicaragua, Jamaica and Honduras will be multiplied four times.** You can relieve the suffering of families who pray and wait for safe shelter by providing them with a safe and secure home – just like you did for Maudiel's family! ❖



"I say to God, 'Thank you God for this house you got for me and my family so we can have a new life.' Before I thought, 'What would it be like to have a new house?' I can't believe how quick this happened through God and the people who made it happen."
–Nicolas

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“God is our refuge and our strength, an ever-present help in distress.” (Psalm 46:2)

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