

As we celebrate our nation's freedom, we realize that not everyone's freedom appears in the same form. We think of personal rights, where to live, how to vote, school, etc. Others consider freedom as survival, freedom from living on the street, freedom from starvation, and safety. They don't have the possibility of movement, because they have no means, or freedom from starvation, because they have no food. They have no knowledge of safety because they live in squalor with no possibility to better their situation. They are not lazy and long for something better for themselves and their families and neighborhood. That is where we are blessed to be a blessing to them. Blessing them with our feeding programs, building homes, and ministering the biggest hope that is Jesus. One of the ladies, Marcia, wanted me to pass along her testimony of how this ministry has helped and changed her life. Not everybody experienced something beyond imagination; sometimes it's just a prayer that made the difference and kept them going. Us being there and them showing up is a testimony.

Marcia lives in Capao Redondo with her 3 children. Theirs was a house that in all these years, I could not even enter. It had flooded, it was hot, and mold had invaded every corner of the inside. All I could see and smell, from the front door, was black mold. Hers is a row house, with common outside walls that are the next house's wall. There is one outside door and window in the front. All the mold was trapped inside. There was no remodeling possible, and we could not tear it down, just a heart-breaking situation for such a great person. So, we came up with what appeared to be not much, but the only thing we could do with what we had. We bought gallons of bleach, gloves and fans and Marcia went 110% in cleaning mode. She can now see her walls, breathe while inside and know her kids will not be in danger with every breath they take. Freedom to live safely in their home.



Agatha is now 24 years old, she has been the main caretaker of her family since she was 19. Her father left the family when she was 8. She has Ayla her twin sister, Thalita 19, brother Kaique 15 and Sabrina 16. Their mother died of cancer in 2016. Agatha was determined to keep her family intact and took legal custody of the minor children. Their mother had inherited a house and they were able to stay in that house. The house was not much, just 1 bedroom, bathroom and kitchen, but it was home. Agatha quit school and took a job to provide for her siblings. Some of the church people would



New bedroom

help, when possible, but they tried to be independent as much as possible. Then in 2020 there was an electrical fire and it traveled throughout the house. They were trying to fix it when they had torrential rains and the roof caved in. They were all staying in one room, because they could only afford a tarp to cover a portion of the roof.

Their church presented their story to us and of course we offered to help. The church offered to do all the manual labor and we promised to rebuild and add a bedroom for the 5. In spite of

> how dire their living circumstances are, the house is always spotless, and they won't let me take a picture until their makeup and clothes are perfect. They are

bof



polite, articulate, hardworking and aren't allowed to miss school or church. Agatha now has freedom to take a breath and think about her own future. She has a new job, is working on getting back to school, restarting her life that stopped when her mom died. Agatha said she thought that no one would have faith in her to make things better for her family. She now knows that because God has her back she can go forward.

Thank you for providing the means to provide for others. Their homes are not fancy, flashy or elegant, but they are theirs. Home means freedom and protection from so much that the world threatens, but with cleans walls and a good roof we have a wall of protection.

God bless America!!!!

