Storms Send a Family Running

José lives in a loving home — but sadly, it is often filled with panic. When storms come, the young boy feels nervous as rainwater streams in and turns the dirt floor to mud. His fear peaks when strong winds shake the flimsy wooden walls, causing the house to rattle. If his father is away working, José will cry, "Mom, let's get out!" Sometimes, Gloria agrees, and she runs with José and his sister through the pouring rain to a neighbor's house.

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7483 A

Living in Fear

Mayari shakes in fear every time a storm strikes. Her home's rusted tin walls tremble violently as strong winds lift the roof off its supports and rain pours in. She wonders if the roof will blow away. "I'm afraid of lightning and thunder. I hide under the sheets," she said. Her mother, Maria, is brokenhearted that she can't provide a sturdier home for her five children, but her earnings as a housekeeper are barely enough to cover meager meals.

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Trusting God Is at Work

Fatima's necklace says it all — she trusts in a loving God to answer her prayers. She and her family members participate in the Brown Scapular, a devotional to the Blessed Virgin Mary. Knowing the Lord and his mother are on her side, Fatima remains joyful even as her family's flimsy home floods during rainstorms and grows cold when nighttime temperatures drop. With her ever-present smile, Fatima said, "We believe God's hand is at work in you."

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Praying for Protection

Alejandro doesn't earn enough to build a sturdy home — just $10 a day. When their mud-brick home began crumbling, his family of eight moved into a hastily built structure of thin wood. It offers little protection, but Alejandro's daughter, Elvira, shared her confidence in the One who keeps them safe. "God has never abandoned us. We ask God to guard us wherever we go," she said. Seeking the Lord's protection, the family prays twice a week at church and every day at their home altar.

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A Loving Mother Defends Her Son

By now, Catarina is prepared for the hazards of living in a thatched-roof home built with wood slats. As storm clouds gather, she moves the beds to the singular spot that will stay driest when the rain starts flooding inside. On one of the beds, she lays clothes for herself and her son and covers them with a tarp. She is also ready for the snakes and scorpions that seem to suddenly appear — she has a big stick, and she's ready to use it.

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Joyful Prayers Fill a New Home

Santiago and Carmen wanted just one piece of furniture in their new concrete-block home — a home altar. Grateful to be safe from storms and scorpions, the parents and their daughters kneel each day in prayer at a simple table that is their holy place. “I see God’s hand in providing us this house,” said Santiago, a laborer in the local farm fields. “Now I understand that there’s one who can do it all, and he did for us.”

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Safe Homes Bring Great Joy

Vidalia breathed a deep sigh of relief the first time rain fell on her new cement-block home. “I felt so happy when I realized it was raining and we were not getting wet,” the mother of two said. She tried to explain further, but she had to pause as tears welled up. She put her face in her hands, then continued, “These are tears of joy. There is no way we could have built a house like this.”

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