

SNAP-SHOTS

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January 15th. Just another day on the calendar for most, but for Yulisa 19, David 15 and Juan 13, it's a day etched into their minds, most likely for the rest of their lives. In 2025 it was the day they watched their mom struggle for her last breath, as she lay on a bed in their small shack dying from an asthma related respiratory illness.

One year later - to the day, David arrived home from school to find his father, who'd been suffering from deep depression since the loss of his wife, hanging from a rope. Despite his every and best effort to save him, it was unfortunately and tragically, too late. This family originally from Chiapas (most southern and poorest state in MX), had come to Tijuana some years ago, with dreams of a brighter future.



Entrance to the family's house. (Last month).



One of multiple leaks in the roof. Photo of mom below.

Since January 15th Yulisa, David and Juan have been supporting one another as best they can. At the time of their father's death, Yulisa was five months pregnant and had been living nearby with her husband and his family. David and Juan moved in with them initially, but as it was pretty cramped, and with no other options, Yulisa, her husband Adrian, David and Juan decided to move back to the house, despite the memories of what had happened there still being very raw. Adrian, who works as a construction laborer, has admirably taken on the role of providing for the boys now as well as for Yulisa and the baby.

Since learning about the situation in February, V&O has been helping with food and medical needs. Cesar has been checking in regularly to encourage the boys. This week with the help of several men from the rehab center that we partner with, V&O is helping to reconstruct their house, which was badly in need of repairs. Considering the situation, we wanted to help in some way at least, to

ease the reminders of what had happened there, so that the family can begin to heal and move forward.

Adrian and Yulisa are so grateful for this and eagerly began the preparation work. The baby arrived safely one month ago and has been a timely blessing, lifting the spirits of all. On one of our visits soon after his birth, we noticed that it was the first time we had seen David smile. Both he and Juan are excited to be uncles.



Last month: Cesar shakes hands with David after a meeting with the family and a kind neighbor, (left), about the plan for the house rebuild.

It's hard to know what to say in situations like this, particularly to two young boys, but as we know, our actions usually speak louder than our words. Our hope and prayer is that in this case our actions will help to shine some light in this dark chapter for Yulisa, David and Juan. We know God loves them, sees them and understands their pain. We thank you for the important part you play in helping us to demonstrate this to them in tangible ways. Please continue to keep them all in your prayers and again **thank you!**



A day out for a movie and burgers. David & Juan with Youth Leader Maytek (right) & her sister Evelyn. (Cesar behind the camera).



GRACIAS!

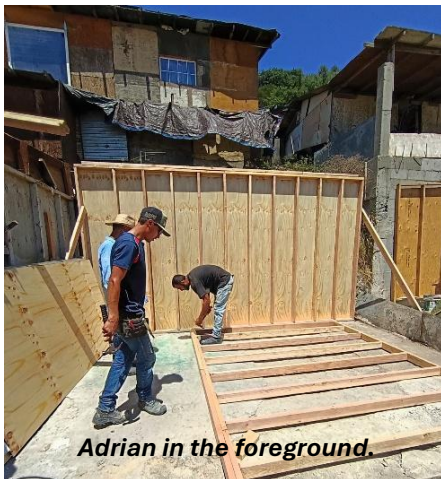
Yulisa & baby
Adrian junior.

Mom
& Dad



Yesterday morning...

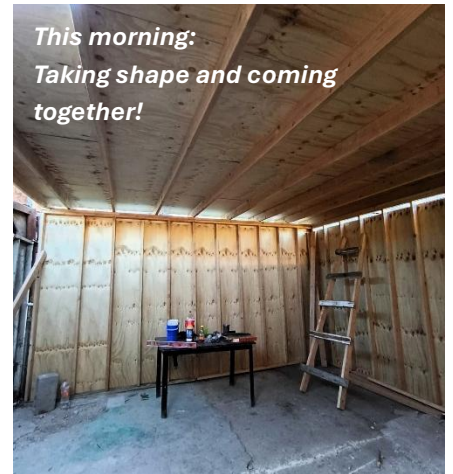
The rebuild begins.
Figuring out a plan of attack.



Adrian in the foreground.



Yesterday afternoon:
Good progress!



This morning:
Taking shape and coming together!



Pastor Erik and Cesar continue to visit Monte de Jehova Rehab Center every 2nd Sat. morning to share breakfast and a message from God's Word with approximately 40 men, all in different stages of their recovery. Those further along in the journey are eligible to work out in the community, which is a critical part for them to not only regain a sense of self-worth and contribute positively to society, but also to make meaningful impacts on other people's lives as well. Thus, a win-win situation for all. Most jump at the chance when these opportunities arise. We've been most grateful for their help with multiple projects now.

He makes the whole body fit together perfectly. As each part does its own special work, it helps the other parts grow, so that the whole body is healthy and growing and full of love. Ephesians. 4:16



A BRIEF UPDATE:

We're happy to report that plans for the transition of V&O ministries to Mission Trails Church in San Diego are progressing well. We plan to send more details out in a week or two, so please keep a look out for this in your mail. Until then and on behalf of us all working across the border, God's blessings to you!

Joyce, Philip & the team!