

# SNAP-SHOTS

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## MEDICAL MINISTRY

Each month our ministry assists families with medical needs. Some cases are short term and easily remedied with a doctor's visit and prescription, whereas others are ongoing and need more assistance with further appointments, transport, advocacy, therapies, surgery etc. This month as always brought a mix of cases with highs and lows as some progressed positively, while others continue with more complex needs....

**DAMARIS** (4 months) was born with clubbed feet. Fortunately, Grandma recognized the problem and sought help early, (not always the case among the people we work with), thus avoiding surgery or permanent disability. The family raised enough money to pay half the cost of the corrective treatment and V&O provided funds for the other half and also for a pair of custom orthopedic shoes. Damaris will continue wearing a series of casts and bracing that will gradually correct the deformity. We're happy to say that the outlook for her is very positive. The doctors say she will eventually walk and continue to develop normally. Yay!



**GUSTAVO** (16) has been waiting for a kidney transplant. After receiving specialist treatment and monitoring in Guadalajara for the past 2 months he underwent extensive tests to confirm his condition was stable enough to go ahead with the transplant. His older sister, (the only one in his family who is a match to donate), also underwent tests to again confirm the condition of her health as a donor. Gustavo passed all the tests, which was very good news, however, unfortunately his sister did not. Over this last year she's developed some health issues of her own that will require time and commitment to a special diet to overcome. This was a big disappointment for the family. Gustavo and his mom Gaby have returned to Tijuana where he continues with dialysis treatment in the meantime. Gaby works at a gas station which provides insurance for this. V&O assists with their accommodation costs when they're in Guadalajara. Please keep this family in your prayers. It was a long process to get as far as they did in the long waiting list for transplants and this has set things back. Erik, (local pastor who assists us), has been supporting Gustavo and his mom Gaby with prayer and encouragement from God's Word throughout this year.



**ALEX (6) AND VICTOR (5)** from separate families, began to show subtle signs of autism spectrum disorder from an early age. Not being familiar with the disorder, their moms struggled with their unusual and sometimes difficult behavior, confused as to what could be wrong. Hortencia picked up on some of the signs this past year and offered and arranged for the boys to be officially diagnosed in order to qualify for government assistance with therapy and enrollment in a special school. Alex recently completed the 9 weekly sessions required for diagnosis and is now able to receive the help he needs going forward. Victor has another 3 sessions to go.

Both moms are extremely grateful for the support they've received from V&O and Hortencia and Paty who've accompanied them on most of their appointments. Victor and his mom now attend a local church where Victor loves to help and excels in small duties that Pastor Juan Toscano (briefly featured in last month's SS), has put him in charge of.

**Thanks so much** for your part in making this positive difference in the lives of these special boys!







Kevin  
with his  
medication.

**KEVIN (12)** has been one of our ongoing medical cases since 2022. He continues to receive lifesaving medication through V&O to control his seizures. Kevin's situation is sadly complicated. His home life is unstable. Kevin also has 3 younger siblings. His mom, who has suffered much trauma in her own life is uneducated and ill equipped to cope with the family's needs consistently, which means that sometimes despite our best efforts to assist, Kevin's medications are not always administered as routinely as they need to be.

This has resulted in Kevin being hospitalized several times this past year, and unnecessary damage being done to his brain each time. His behavior has become more erratic and disruptive and he's no longer welcome at school. Although authorities are somewhat aware of the situation, it seems at this point there is nowhere for Kevin to be placed to receive the proper care and attention he needs. This is frustrating and concerning for us to witness.

Please pray for Kevin, a special young boy who through no fault of his own, seems to be heading in a downward direction. Please pray for God's intervention in his young life and also wisdom for us in dealing with this situation. Thank you!

**JOSE ANTONIO (8)** has muscular dystrophy. His father's job with an air conditioning repair company provides insurance to cover the costs of José Antonio's medications, however it also often takes his dad far from home, sometimes for days or weeks at a time, so José Antonio misses him a lot. He looks forward to the monthly visits from Hortencia and the team who come to share a message from the Bible, play games with the kids and help with food and medical needs in his neighborhood. He always brings Hortencia a flower that he has found or a little note or drawing he's made for her. Last week she noticed his weight had increased again since the last time, and he was having more difficulty walking. This is a result of side effects of the medication he takes, as well as the progressive muscle weakness caused by the disease itself. José Antonio is no longer able to go to school, however, as our team was giving out school backpacks to the other kids, he politely asked if he also could have one so he could put his special things in it when he goes to his appointments at the Children's Hospital. Hortencia was happy to oblige and helped him pick one out that he especially liked.

There is no cure for MD and it appears José Antonio has one of the more rapidly progressing types for which life expectancy is perhaps not too much past his teenage years.

Children can teach us some of the greatest lessons in life, *"for the kingdom of God belongs to such as these,"* as Jesus tells us in Matthew 19:14. José Antonio's sweet spirit in the midst of his very real and daily struggles with MD is a testament to that. May we honor and learn from his presence among us for as long as God allows.

Please keep José Antonio and his family in your prayers. Thank you! .....



They asked each other, "Were not our hearts burning within us while he talked with us on the road and opened the Scriptures to us?" Luke 24:32

## CAMP 2025

### "Hearts full of Fire"

Through the combined efforts of Youth Pastor Daniel Ratz, his wife Abigail and their team of volunteers, dozens of kids enjoyed and responded well to fun, games, food, competitions, activities and lessons from God's promises in the Bible on how to live a full and abundant life through belief, faith, trust and following Jesus.

**THANK YOU** again for helping to give kids this opportunity!

Until next month,  
God bless!

Joyce & Philip, on  
behalf of us all at V&O!