

# SNAP-SHOTS

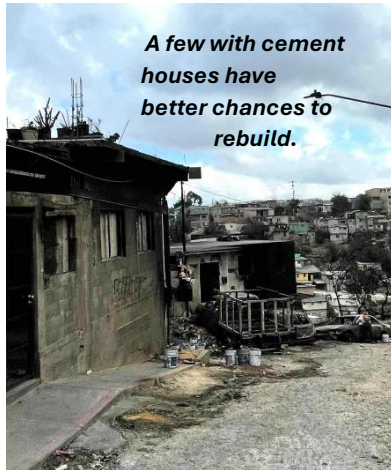
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January 2025... It's likely to be a memorable month for years to come! A lot going on in the world!

In our corner it's unfortunately been a rough start for many. Multiple wildfires in Southern California and Northern Mexico have taken a huge tragic toll over the past few weeks. The driest winter on record, combined with strong Santa Ana winds has helped spread flames far and wide. Three days ago, one of the fires hit close to home for us in barrio Xochimilco, a community Pastor Von liked to visit in his later years, affectionately (with tongue in cheek), renaming it, "Gardenia." Thirty homes were lost in this fire and more tragically, the life of one young man. Hortencia and the team have been busy these past days, ministering to the needs of those affected in "Gardenia."



*Mom & son  
lost everything.*



*A few with cement  
houses have  
better chances to  
rebuild.*



*A local lady collecting  
donations from the  
community.*



*Hortencia & Paty give out  
blankets, clothes and food.*



*Paty elicits  
a smile.*



*Sitting on what was  
once the foundation  
of their home.*



*Yair & Cristian,  
(left & center)  
delivering food  
to a grateful dad.*

As has been the case for a number of years in TJ, outdated water supply infrastructure, combined with droughts, leaves fire fighters without water to fight some of these fires, particularly in the poorer areas. Few if any of these families have insurance, so over the next few weeks we'll be looking for the ones needing the most help. The community is coming together to help each other also, which is great to see and hopefully some may be eligible for government assistance, however, that will most likely take some time! Meanwhile, **they and we** are most grateful to **you**, for your prayers and the funds you make available, enabling us to respond quickly to crisis situations like this!

*Matthew 6:31 So do not worry, saying, 'What shall we eat?' or 'What shall we drink?' or 'What shall we wear?'*



# GRACIAS!



So far, V&O has been able to help with several hot meals, food supplies, blankets, pillows, clothing, new underwear & socks, toiletries, a few household items, as well as prayers, and bibles for those who would like them.

## A TESTIMONY OF PROTECTION

Estela has lived close to "Gardenia" for many years. She is 70, confined to a wheelchair and known as a kind Christian woman. As the fire raged through the neighborhood, people were amazed to witness it moving around the outskirts of her little wooden house, leaving it completely untouched! This testimony has already sparked some great conversations among neighbors with Hortencia about God's special care for those who love and trust in Him!



Estela's house from the back.



Estela's house from the front.

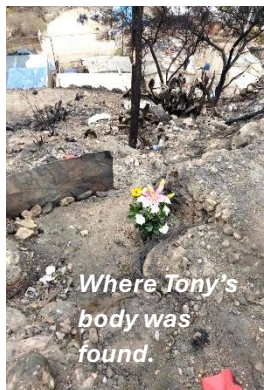
LEFT: Hortencia with Estela yesterday.

Nahum 1:7 "The Lord is good, a refuge in times of trouble. He cares for those who trust in Him..."

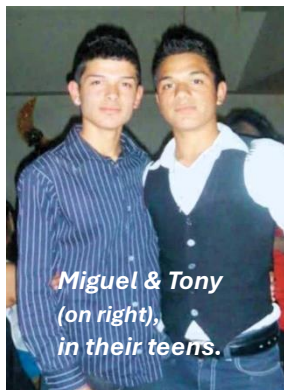
Most of the people in these neighborhoods are familiar with adversity. However, losing everything they have can have dire consequences for those without family or anything else to fall back on.

Please pray for God to give us wisdom and lead us to those who most need help over these next few weeks. As well as being able to supply them with some physical needs, may we also be able to point them to the One who is the ultimate source and fulfillment for each and every one of our needs!

Philippians 4:19 "And my God will supply every need of yours according to his riches in glory in Christ Jesus."



Where Tony's body was found.



Miguel & Tony (on right), in their teens.

## TONY

Unfortunately, we end on a sad note this month. The young man who died in the fire was named Tony. He was 30 yrs old. Tony and his brother Miguel now 32, were well known to Pastor Von who took time to listen and talk with them on many occasions during their teens and early twenties. We hope Tony is talking to Pastor Von again now. Please pray for his mom who is devastated. Hortencia, who knows the pain of losing a son, is ministering to her in her loss.

Once again, **THANK YOU** for your partnership with us. We couldn't do this work without your prayers, support and encouragement. God bless you ALL! Joyce, Philip, Hortencia & the team.