

SNAP-SHOTS

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Trust in the LORD with all your heart and lean not on your own understanding; in all your ways submit to Him, and He will make your paths straight. Proverbs 3:5-6

With the continued uncertainty of the pandemic it's sometimes hard to know what to do. Usually this time of year we're busy gathering and distributing school supplies and uniforms to hundreds of kids in our communities. This year things are of course quite different. While we're still gathering and distributing school supplies, it looks increasingly likely most kids will be using them in their homes rather than in their schools. Like here in the US, schools in MX are also struggling with decisions to reopen or not. Lately in MX there has been talk of providing classes/lessons through television, however whether this idea gets off the ground is yet to be seen. There are some online classes for kids if they have access to internet, computers, tablets, or laptops. Many of the kids we know, do not. Others are trying to do their schoolwork on cell phones with limited success. This month we've been pondering ways of how to help and asking God to lead and guide us in this.



Left to right:

Geovanny and Paty pack school supplies.

Educational and Christian books for kids in our communities.

Kids at Esperanza Orphanage check out some of the new books we brought for their library.

Left to right:
Natali receives a bead making kit. Natali lost her Mom to cancer last year and 2 uncles this year, (to drug related violence). She and her younger brother now live with their disabled Grandma.

Happy with their new school supplies!

Boys receiving a few small toys, coloring pages and activities.



Last week we bought several tablets, which are becoming hard to get now, (due to the demand), and refurbished laptops. We are hoping to acquire more in the coming days and weeks as we know there are many kids who are committed to continuing their schoolwork but need a tablet or laptop to do so.

One of these bright young students is 12-year-old Dana Graciela who lives in Ejido Lazaro Cardenas, (on the outskirts of TJ), with her Mom, older brother, and younger sister. A resourceful young lady, Dana Graciela also has a talent for gardening and was eager to show us her garden when we stopped by to drop off some food supplies for the family and surprise her with one of the tablets.



Left: Dana Graciela shows her garden. She is growing watermelon, green tomatoes, onions and chiles.



Opening her surprise!



Trying out some schoolwork on the new tablet.

Yesterday Dana Graciela called Hortencia, excitedly informing her she now has internet connection and is already participating in the online classes. (A condition for each of the kids receiving a tablet or laptop is that we will be checking in on their progress and grades). Dana Graciela is also sharing the tablet with her younger sister and internet costs for their Mom will be about \$20 a month.

THANK YOU for helping to make this possible for Dana Graciela, her little sister and others like them.

SAD, BUT ALSO GLAD NEWS...

This month we said goodbye to Olga Cano (38) and Juan de Dios (65). Olga and Juan died just over a week apart. Olga's battle with cancer finally ended and Juan who had been bedridden for more than 5 years, (after an accident), died from organ failure last week. Olga and Juan had become special friends to us and also to each other over the last 18 months, as we watched them grow stronger in their faith and encourage each other, (by phone, and visits), as they and their families bravely faced difficult physical and emotional struggles simultaneously.



(March) Philip prepares the wheelchair for Juan to try out.

Thanks to a generous donor and help from a friend in a medical supply store, we were able to obtain an electric wheelchair and lifting equipment to help Juan and his wife Yoli, for the last 6 months of Juan's life. It made a huge difference to both of them. (Yoli had developed a hernia from lifting Juan).



Xmas 2019

Olga is survived by her husband, Juan, 4 children and 1 grandchild.



Olga & Lupe...

read the Bible together.

We take great comfort in knowing that Olga and Juan came to know and grow close to God

through their struggles. We're humbled by their examples and reminded of God's promises that trials in this world are temporary and that in His love we can find the strength, hope, and peace that leads to eternal life.

THANK YOU for partnering with us to help spread this message in word and deed to so many who still need to hear it.

On behalf of us all at V&O, Joyce, Philip & Hortencia.

Blessed is the man who remains steadfast under trial, for when he has stood the test he will receive the crown of life, which God has promised to those that love him. James 1:12



Paty L. shares a word of encouragement with Yoli from God's word.



Juan expresses heartfelt thanks to Hortencia and V&O.