

SNAP-SHOTS

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PRAYERS FOR LESLI

Lesli was 4 years old when her mom Paty began working with us, teaching kids in the orphanages to sew. Over the years Lesli has followed her Mom's lead, becoming very helpful in the ministry. Lesli organizes donated items, helps younger kids with activities, sews, cleans, helps to prepare and serve food, etc... Lesli, (now 12), has become a much loved and appreciated member of Von & On.

Last week, after an examination by Dr Santos, Lesli underwent a series of tests and a scan. Lesli has not been herself lately. She has been suffering from headaches and more recently, problems with her vision, memory and stumbling.

Although the tests are not conclusive, they yielded some concerning results, so Dr Santos has referred her to specialists for more indepth tests and studies next week.



It's at times like this we are most thankful for the funds, (provided by many of you), in our medical account! However, as important and extremely helpful \$ and medical professionals are in these situations, we know that ultimately God is the one in control and often times has a plan that goes far beyond what we can see or imagine. We read of this in Isaiah 55 where He tells us; "My thoughts are not your thoughts, neither are your ways my ways..."

Yet, throughout His Word He also assures us He is with us through hard times.

So do not fear, for I am with you; do not be dismayed, for I am your God. I will strengthen you and help you; I will uphold you with my righteous right hand. Isaiah 41:10



We are praying for Lesli, Paty and Lesli's brother José, 18 (who works hard to help support the family). They are understandably anxious and Paty also has some health issues of her own. We pray that God's strength would fill them with hope, peace and faith through this uncertain time and that He would continue to lead and guide the doctors, giving them wisdom and resources that would bring complete healing for Lesli. Please pray with us this next month. THANK YOU!

ROBERTO

You may remember Roberto from our Feb SS... at the age of 1, Roberto had lost both his parents to AIDS and was confirmed as being HIV positive himself. Due to the stigma, placing him in an orphanage was not an option, so Hortencia, (who had only known him for a day), became his 'foster mom' for the next 4 years until his unofficial adoption. After the death of his adoptive mother in 2017, Roberto spent much of his later teen years fending for himself on and off the streets until he was taken in by Pastors Carlos and Sharlene last year.

Since then, Roberto, now 21, has given his life to Christ, was baptised and was also reunited with Hortencia. After this, although Roberto's well-being improved significantly, his physical health did not, and it became apparent there was something else wrong. Roberto had contracted tuberculosis, (a particularly dangerous disease for someone HIV positive).

In April, together with Hortencia, Pastors Carlos and Sharlene persuaded Roberto to move into Las Memorias, an AIDS Hospice Center, the only place in Tijuana that provides the specialized treatment and care he needs to recover, (and sadly also the place where his mother died 20 years ago).

The transition for Roberto was not easy. Not used to staying in one place and missing his new church family, Roberto struggled for the first months. Most of the patients at Las Memorias are very sick and dying, often the consequences of risky lifestyle choices. It's been difficult for Roberto to accept that for him, there was no choice.

Despite this, we've been encouraged to see positive changes in him. The Director of Las Memorias, after gaining a better understanding of Roberto's situation and recognizing his intelligence, moved him into a staff room and gave him the use of the office computer. He also arranged for Roberto to complete his High School education through a Govt. funded programme. Last month he tasked Roberto with researching info on AIDS/HIV to present to the patients and staff at Las Memorias. Roberto did the research, and completed the presentation very well.

We don't know what the future holds for Roberto, he most likely still has many challenges ahead, but we suspect that God has a very special plan and purpose for him of which we are only just beginning to see the fruits of. We thank God for his life and are **so** proud of him! **Many thanks** to all of you who have been praying for him and please continue to do so!



Hortencia and the team visit Roberto every 2 weeks.



Working in the office.



Roberto has to stay at Las Memorias for at least a year.

MINISTRY TO MIGRANTS

In addition to prison ministry, Pastors Carlos, Sharlene and their church continue to minister to migrant families at the border. We partner with them in this, providing food, clothes, hygiene & medical items, funds etc., to help show and teach kids and adults the love of Christ. We pray they would find their home as sons and daughters in the house of the Lord first and foremost, while they wait on decisions that will determine their earthly home. We're thankful for the tireless work of Pastors Carlos, Sharlene and others in this work.



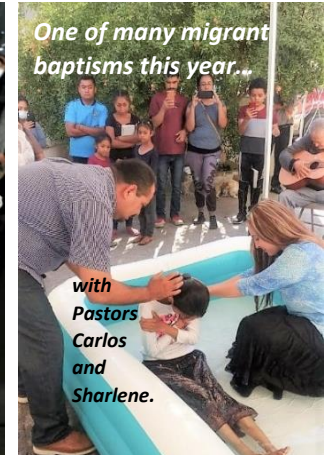
Showing a bible story movie to the kids.



Eagerly waiting for their slice of pizza.



Sharlene with some of the kids.



One of many migrant baptisms this year...

with Pastors Carlos and Sharlene.

On behalf of us and the people we serve across the border, God bless you and keep you and may His face shine upon you! Until next month, Joyce, Philip, Hortencia and the team.