

SNAP-SHOTS

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SUMMER BREAK

For most of the families in the areas we serve, the term “taking a vacation” is a foreign concept. Many kids spend their childhoods rarely venturing out of their immediate neighborhoods even during summer breaks. This month with school still out and dedicated funds available, we had the opportunity and privilege to take some special and well deserving kids on a few fun day trips. Simple fun met with excited anticipation!



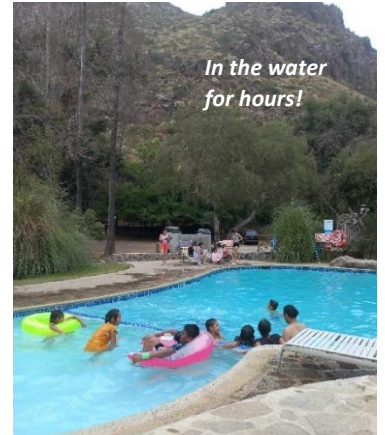
Breakfast on the way!



Excited on arrival!



Fun in the trees!



In the water for hours!

ABOVE & RIGHT: The car trip in itself, 2 hrs into the mountains towards Ensenada, to a picnic-campground with pools, was an adventure and a “first” for these kids. Leading up to the event, their moms said they had been excitedly talking about it for days!



First time in a pool!



Asleep on the way home!



Going to the Cinema!



Filling in time waiting outside.



Pastor Erik, (right) buys the tickets.

LEFT & BELOW: For this group of young kids it was a first time experience to go to the cinema. We also invited one of the moms and 2 young teens, (who work to help support their families), for a well-earned break! Continued...



Splashing in a nearby fountain.



*Half-time...
...popcorn and soda for everyone!*



And now off to a Chinese restaurant!

You who are young, be happy while you are young, and let your heart give you joy in the days of your youth. Eccl. 11:9



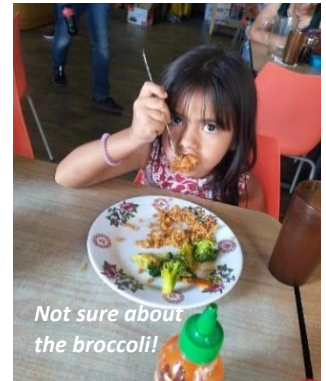
Waiting patiently!



Pastor Erik pours the drinks.



Enjoying their first time eating Chinese food!



Not sure about the broccoli!

The kids also enjoyed playing in a park and from there went home tired and happy, their shouts of “Gracias!” fading as they climbed back up the dusty trail to their shacks on the hillsides. We trust they will remember their “special day out” for a long time to come. Each of these kids live every day in a tough environment; cartel controlled barrios where they’re often exposed to things they shouldn’t be. **THANK YOU** for your part in helping us demonstrate the love of Jesus through your gifts and prayers in these important moments He gives us, to teach them about Him.

OMAR... Omar (35) has helped us out in the past as a driver. Several weeks ago, at the end of a long day, Hortencia received a desperate phone call from his wife Lorena. After feeling mildly unwell for a few weeks, Omar had now suddenly become seriously ill. Bundling him in the car, Erik, Hortencia, and Lorena took him to Dr Santos who agreed to see him. The prognosis was not good. Omar had severe anemia and Dr Santos suspected kidney failure also. If he was not hospitalized immediately, he would probably not last out the week. With no insurance, General Hospital seemed the only option for Omar, one that he was very afraid of. (GH does not have a good reputation). But with no other option they prayed and headed over there.



Hortencia and Erik visit Omar & Lorena soon after Omar's arrival home from hospital

In the time spent waiting to be seen, Omar's fear of dying was evident, and after recognizing the need to make himself right with God, Erik led him in a prayer to receive Jesus Christ as the Lord and Savior of his life. Omar also requested to call his young daughter from a previous marriage. He wanted to tell her he loved her and somehow say “goodbye” in case he wouldn't see her again. It was through that phone call that a gracious family member hearing of the situation, offered that it was possible for Omar to be covered by their insurance. “He should meet them immediately at another private hospital.”



Omar, seated in center between wife Lorena and Hortencia.

Omar spent the next 2 weeks in that hospital. He is now a Hemodialysis patient and he and Lorena are learning to manage and treat his condition at home between regular hospital visits. Last Saturday night Omar shared his testimony at a small church gathering near our V&O bodega. He's eternally grateful to God for saving his life both physically and spiritually through all that happened.



Omar shares his testimony.

BACK TO SCHOOL!

This month, thanks to your help we were able to distribute over 250 school supply packs and dozens of back packs and school shoes. These pics represent just a few of the hundreds of kids that were blessed. Thank You! (More pics on our FB page).



“The Lord bless you and keep you; the Lord make his face shine on you and be gracious to you...”
Num. 6:24-25
On behalf of us all here at V&O, Joyce, Philip, Hortencia & the Team!