

SNAP-SHOTS

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For the word of God is alive and powerful. It is sharper than the sharpest two-edged sword, cutting between soul and spirit, between joint and marrow. It exposes our innermost thoughts and desires. Hebrews 4:12

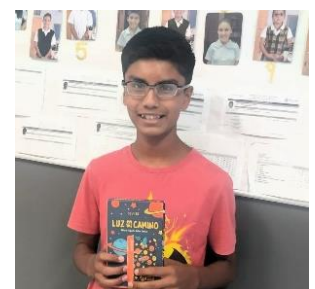
Books can be powerful tools, opening up endless possibilities to expand knowledge, inspire confidence, motivate action, improve vocabulary and cognitive skills, enhance imagination, provide comfort, find hope, reduce stress, lower heart rate, even release muscle tension, etc. etc... the list goes on! The bestselling book in history, #1 every year in fact, is of course... *the Bible!* Having withstood centuries of resistance, the Bible still remains the most translated and purchased book in the world! And the evidence of its authenticity as "the divinely inspired Word of God," increases every year. These are just some of the reasons V&O regularly dedicates funds for the purchase of Bibles and books for kids and adults in our communities. It's an investment that we've seen reap rewards on numerous occasions. One such example is Eva and her daughter, Ada (18). Eva works in one of the pharmacies where we pick up prescriptions for those we help with medical needs. Being a frequent customer, Hortencia came to know Eva well, and one day offered her a book to read, to encourage her through a difficult time. The book and an invitation from another customer gave Eva the courage to attend a nearby church service, and a few weeks later she made the decision to commit her life to following Jesus, only to be followed soon after that, by Ada, who was drawn by the positive changes she saw in her in her mom's life!



Eva & Ada

Eva and Ada both thank you for the books and other notes/gifts/acts of kindness received through V&O that all played a part in affirming God's love for them and welcoming them into His eternal family. They now attend church together each week and were happy to be able to share a small part of their testimony with you in this newsletter.

Below: Some of the books & Bibles bought this year.



Above: Each of these kids proudly earned their first Bible this month, through either memorizing verses or the books of the Bible, or actively participating in lessons on a regular basis.



LEFT: Books can be very useful in situations like that of Lucero's. Lucero has been mostly housebound since her left foot was amputated earlier this year. At that time, she and her mom were also caring for her younger brother (main provider in the family), who became fully incapacitated for almost a year before he died in February from meningitis. Along with this and knowing her amputation may not have been necessary, (had she been able to afford better medical care for her diabetes), Lucero became very depressed and developed anxiety about leaving the house. (They live above a steep flight of stairs). We've been helping Lucero through some of that this month and hope to find her a more suitable wheelchair soon also. After carefully studying some books we brought on a recent visit, and with tears rolling down her cheeks, Lucero finally chose the one entitled, "Time to Heal," by Joni Erickson Tada. Please keep Lucero and her situation in your prayers. Thank you!

"The grass withers and the flowers fall, but the word of our God endures forever." Isaiah 40:8

BACK TO SCHOOL!

As the summer break draws to a close and most of the kids headed back to school this week, we **THANK YOU** again for your help in equipping them with some of the supplies and items they needed to get off to a good start!



THANK YOU FOR HELPING US!



Karla & kids

Left: A special GRACIAS from Karla and her kids, José Emmanuel, Karla Vanesa and Aitiana. Some of you may recall their story back in Jan 2022, when their dad Pepé (husband to Karla), was tragically killed in an extortion shooting while he was at work. It's been a tough couple of years for Karla and the kids, but they have pulled together as a family and we believe Pepé would be very proud of them. Although they had to sell some of the animals Pepé used to keep on their mini ranch out at Ejido, (as the cost to feed them all was expensive), José Emmanuel insisted on keeping some of them and has now become quite the ranchero, just like his dad. Karla now works at a factory supporting family, while the kids continue to attend school. Karla is very grateful for the help and visits and encouragement they still receive from Hortencia and the team, who continue to check in on them when needs arise etc.



Cesar & excited kids on their way!



Fun at the fountain.



LAST KIDS' DAY TRIP! (at least for the summer!)

Thanks to generous funds, another well deserving group of kids were able to visit the Tijuana Cultural Center on a fun and educational day trip with Cesar and Paty. Nine kids from 3 different families, (one of whose moms had recently passed away), enjoyed a rare and very special day out in the city. **Thanks so much** for your part in making these trips possible for these awesome kids! We plan to continue them.



GRACIAS!



Optical illusions at the aquarium.



Pizza for all!



Ice cream for all!

On behalf of us all working down in Tijuana, God bless you and please continue to keep us in your prayers!
Joyce, Philip, Hortencia & the team!