

SNAP-SHOTS

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Season's Greetings!

It's the day before Christmas so by the time you receive this, the celebrations will be all but over for most of us. For some of the families we serve across the border however, not so! Some are still waiting patiently for their special Christmas delivery from us so they can celebrate. For many of the kids, the gift they receive will be the only one and the grocery card included for the moms means a special meal is coming as well!

So, they continue to wait in excited anticipation. Fortunately, in Mexico January 6, (Three Kings Day), is also a day to celebrate the birth of Jesus, so we are given a little extra time here.

December is a happy, hardworking, and often wet month for our team. This year the rain has held off for the most part, until this past week when it began to hamper delivery plans. Even our four-wheel drives are no match for the slippery clay hillsides and canyons where some of our people reside.

With the addition of COVID complications/restrictions, our deliveries this year are now (like last year), to small groups and house to house instead of large events. Lots of co-ordination and logistics involved, so Hortencia and the team have been very busy!

The following pictures will give you a glimpse into some of the work that's been going on.

Once again, we can't express our thanks to you enough for making it all possible!



Manantial de la Esperanza Orphanage
 (First week of Dec). After enjoying a special meal and the story of Christmas, each of the kids received their gifts, chocolate/candy treats and a Christmas story coloring book with crayons.

GRACIAS!
 from Cande
 Each of the 6 staff received a bag of treats and grocery card for their families.

Time to open the presents!

Fabiola (5) very happy with her new doll.

Cristian and Diego try to organize a group photo!

God has used us together to make a difference in the lives of the kids and staff at Manantial de la Esperanza these past few years. Several of the staff including Cande and her sister Alma have made commitments of faith to Jesus through the teaching of the Gospel by Hortencia and others.

We're especially grateful to Flor and Pablo Castañeda and their family who have been crossing the border regularly from San Diego this past year to voluntarily help teach. Please pray for them, and also for the kids and staff to grow in their faith and walk with God.

The orphanage continues to be in a state of limbo as to when they will move to a new location. As the saying goes in MX... "Nothing happens until it happens." However, in the meantime the kids remain together and the new director continues to be supportive of our visits. We sincerely thank you for your prayers!

I planted the seed, Apollos watered it, but God has been making it grow. 1 Corinthians 3:6

CHRISTMAS DELIVERIES IN GARDENIA...



Kids wait with anticipation for Paty to open their gifts.



First Christmas tree ever!



GRACIAS!



GRACIAS!

(Priceless smiles).



THEN ON TO LAUNITAS...



Gracias! for my warm blanket.

Meanwhile back at the bodega...



A ham and food parcels.

GRACIAS!



Noé, very happy with a new jacket...

and toys for his little brothers.



Thank you!



Thank you for my Batman car!



Thank you!



Thank you!

Jaime, (youth worker), also stops by to receive a ham & package for his family.

Poncho and Noé stop by to receive gifts of appreciation for help they have given to V&O throughout the year. (Both also help to care and provide for younger siblings at home). Poncho recently found a temporary job working in an auto parts store. Noé (a very good soccer player), has been playing in adult level comps. Please keep them in your prayers for steady work.



V&O helpers... Michele 15.

Packing toys



Kathya and Victor pack treat bags.



Loading up.

...preparations continue for more deliveries...

EJIDO LAZARO CARDENAS (outskirts of Tijuana)



Preparing to unload...



...at the home of one of our families.



Blankets and warm clothes needed out here.

GRACIAS!



Receiving gifts.

Roberto (right) receives warm jacket with his toy.



Thank you!

(Blanket and baby formula).



Gracias for visiting me and for my warm jacket and Barbie!



So happy with their strollers and twin babies!

A delivery and visit to Dr Santos clinic...

We continue to be very grateful for the work of Dr Santos and his team who assist us greatly with our medical ministry, often giving us priority and charging minimally. Dr Santos is well connected among medical professionals in Tijuana and has been able to refer us to quality specialists for some of the more difficult cases we've encountered this year.



Hortencia and Philip present Drs Santos and Vasquez with gift baskets for the team and their families.

Philip and Geovanny pay a surprise visit to Lupé. (Lupé grew up in an orphanage that Pastor Von & his team ministered in many years ago).



(Lupé's story is in Snapshots 67 & 86 on our website)



(A Xmas ham and large jar of PB from V&O in bag on Lupe's shoulder).

Lupé works at a local supermarket, He helps and contributes when he can to Von & On. We appreciate him!

We give thanks to God always for all of you, constantly mentioning you in our prayers. (1 Thessalonians 1:2)

CASA DE GRACIA



Flor shares the story of Christmas with the younger kids.



Downstairs, Pablo teaches the teens.

Casa de Gracia is home to 30 kids and teens.

Casa de Gracia orphanage holds special memories for us at V&O as it was a place Pastor Von visited regularly. The teens have fond memories of him and we have been blessed to be able to continue some of the traditions he started years ago, pizzas, ice-cream, games, movies, and bible lessons. Although the staff has changed and there are new kids now, the orphanage is still very well run and overseen by Pastors Carlos and Rossy Montoya.

As the kids here receive gifts from other churches at Christmas time, we thought we would bring along some gifts for the hard-working staff instead. So, last Saturday after a lasagna dinner, (which the kids had requested as a treat), we presented a few gifts to their Caregivers and House Parents who do the special work of taking care of them every day. Each of them was pleasantly surprised and most appreciative!



Caregivers, Santiago and wife Eldea.



House Parents, Mari and Frederico.

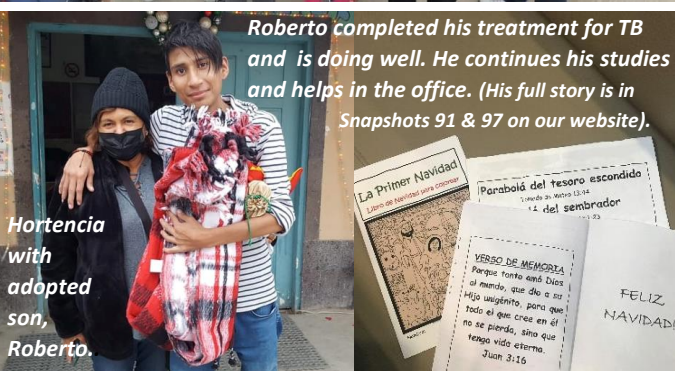
GRACIAS!

(Thank you to the man who donated the very nice watch. It needed to go to someone special and we all agreed, Frederico fit the bill!)

LAS MEMORIAS (AIDS Hospice Center)

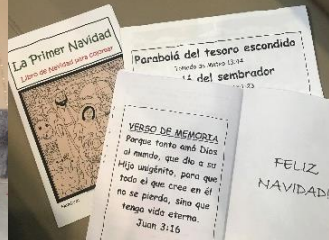


Paty gives out Bible story coloring & activity booklets, (shown below right).



Roberto completed his treatment for TB and is doing well. He continues his studies and helps in the office. (His full story is in Snapshots 91 & 97 on our website).

Hortencia with adopted son, Roberto.



It was a slow trip across the city in the Christmas time traffic, but the welcome and thanks received once our team arrived, was well worth it! Food, blankets, hats, hygiene supplies, treat bags and gifts were distributed to staff and children of some of the terminally ill residents inside.



(Hermana Paty)

**MUCHAS GRACIAS!
FELIZ NAVIDAD!**

By Jan 6, we hope to complete our Christmas Operation to over 1500 people including families, orphanages, the hospice, a rehab center, a church etc. We **THANK YOU** for helping us accomplish the goal of demonstrating God's love to the many still in need of finding real hope, peace, joy, redemption, and salvation in the name above all names, Jesus Christ!

On behalf of us All at V&O, HAPPY NEW YEAR!! Joyce, Philip & Hortencia.