

SNAP-SHOTS

E-mail: vonandon@mail.com

Snail Mail: 7829 Lake Adlon Drive, San Diego, CA 92119

Web: www.vonandon.com

Working across the border in the communities of the poor, I'm often reminded how much I take for granted. Things like my car, the ability to drive wherever I need to go, my house with a solid roof, walls and multiple rooms. Clean water, cold *and* hot at the turn of a tap, appliances to cook meals, wash dishes and clothes at the touch of a few buttons. These are just a *few* of the comforts and conveniences I have that for most of the people we work with are **real** luxuries!

Last week I was reminded of this again when I heard the story of Arturo trying to buy medication for his wife Rosa. An errand that for someone like me would probably take less than an hour, but for someone like Arturo, becomes an all-day exercise. You may recall Rosa and Arturo's story from April 2018...

Rosa had a stroke and Arturo was taking care of her and their daughter Daniela (12), while trying to work his job at the same time. Daniela was helping also, and we bought her a violin to lift her spirits and encourage her with her gift for music.

Thanks to prayer, the right medication and therapy, Rosa is now walking and talking again. Her stroke was caused by a condition known as Cerebral Thrombosis, so she needs medication for the rest of her life. Without it her health deteriorates quickly, and she is prone to having more strokes. The meds cost \$130 a month. A lot of \$ for a family whose income is less than \$200 a month! So along with some government help and whatever the family can afford to contribute, V&O helps with the remainder from our medical fund on a monthly basis.

To buy the medication Arturo walks about 45 minutes to a pharmacy that stocks it, however this time there was none available, so he was advised to go to Costco, where it was in stock. Arturo set off to find a bus to take the trip into the city. After waiting, changing buses a few times and more walking, he arrived at Costco a few hours later, only to find he wasn't allowed in, as he didn't have a Costco card! Looking and feeling quite out of place, (Costco is not a store where the poor usually shop), but not wanting to give up, Arturo tried asking passing-by shoppers if they could help him. It was humiliating, but finally a kind lady stopped, listened long enough to understand his situation and agreed to help. God bless her! At last with the meds in hand, he was able to make his return journey by bus and foot back home again. All in all, a full day mission, yet at least successful! (And then off to his night watchman job for the evening, a 12-hour shift!)

For many like Arturo, constantly facing these kinds of situations becomes overwhelming and exhausting. Sometimes they just give up, especially if they don't believe anyone cares. In addition to Arturo and Rosa's recent challenges, this past year they have also been dealing with the loss of a son. Sadly, his criminal lifestyle caught up with him and he was 'taken out' by the vigilante justice system that reigns in their neighborhood. It was a devastating blow. Arturo and Rosa could also have easily given up, and in fact at times they have felt like it, but thankfully, they believe in God. They know that **He cares** no matter what. They trust Him and they forge on.

We at V&O want to be there for people like Arturo and Rosa in their times of need and for others who don't yet have the knowledge and faith that they do.

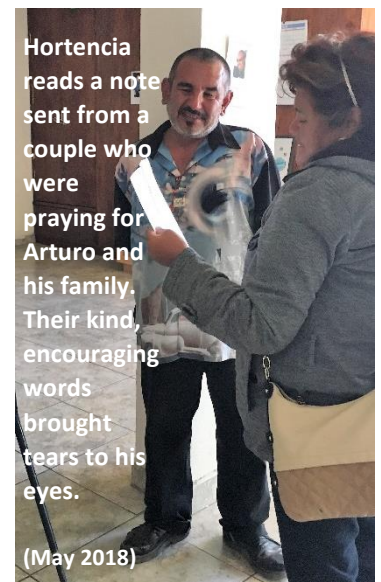
THANK YOU for playing an important part in enabling us to act as a conduit of God's love for them. We couldn't do what we do without your help and prayers!



April 2018
Arturo
helps
Rosa



Arturo demonstrates to
Sabino how he does his
laundry. Sabino was
impressed!



Hortencia
reads a note
sent from a
couple who
were
praying for
Arturo and
his family.
Their kind,
encouraging
words
brought
tears to his
eyes.

(May 2018)

UPDATE ON DANIELA...

Daniela is now 14. Despite the challenges that surround her in the tough environment she lives in, she continues to do well at school. She especially likes her art/graphic design class and still plays her violin. In fact the last few months she's been focused on a goal of playing a special item for her guests at her Quinceanera, (15th birthday celebration), in Oct.

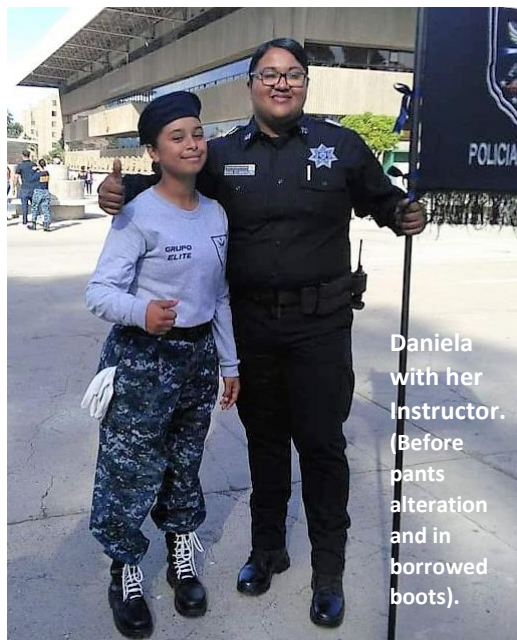
Daniela was adopted by Rosa and Arturo when she was just a baby. That's another story on its own, but had they not done so, it's very likely Daniela would have grown up in an orphanage. This was only revealed to her last year by someone else inside the family. As you can imagine, it came as a shock. With the death of her brother as well as a cousin she was close to, (who was also killed near her house), it's been a tough year for Daniela too. For a short time she became rebellious and we were all a bit concerned, however after a few months she began making positive changes and choices. Then late last year Daniela took up an opportunity with a preventative program for at-risk youth to join the "Policia Juvenil" (Youth Police Academy). Arturo encouraged her and worked extra hard to pay for her uniform etc.

When Daniela turns 18, she plans to join the military. The military offers further education options for her that she knows her parents won't be able to afford otherwise. She wants that opportunity and is excited about it. Although Daniela is still at a crucial stage in her life and a lot can happen in the next few years, right now we are **so** proud of her and her Mom and Dad are even prouder!

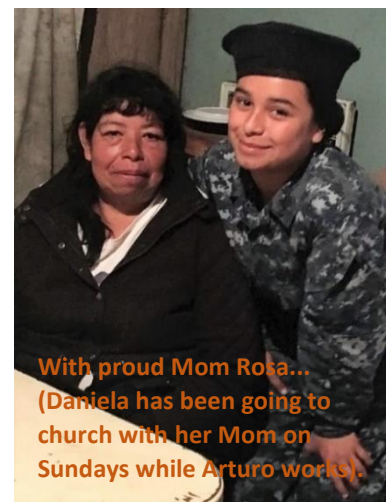
We can't thank enough, those of you out there who have been praying and enquiring about this family since April 2018. A special thanks to Mabel H. (96 years young!), who has been praying and sponsored Daniela's violin lessons for a year. Acts of kindness like these can make a big difference. God bless you all for making a difference in the lives of Rosa, Arturo, Daniela and many others! Please continue to keep us and all the people God sends our way in your prayers. Again, thank you! on behalf of us all working across the border, Joyce, Philip and Hortencia.



Above: Paty, (V&O sewing teacher), helps out by altering Daniela's uniform. (Pants were a little baggy!)



Daniela with her Instructor. (Before pants alteration and in borrowed boots).



With proud Mom Rosa... (Daniela has been going to church with her Mom on Sundays while Arturo works).

One last request... Rosa and Arturo have 2 other sons. Both are in rehab right now. Please pray for them. Their names are Christian and Ismael. Thanks!



Daniela, (2nd from left) with her peers. In order to stay in the program the kids have to adhere to strict rules... No boyfriends/girlfriends, no Facebook, etc...



We were able to help with the last item needed to complete Daniela's uniform... a new pair of boots.

She was so happy with her altered pants and new boots!

*Therefore as we have opportunity, let us do good to all people, especially those who belong to the family of believers.
Galatians 6:10*