

SNAP-SHOTS

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January is typically a wet month in our parts and this year was no exception. Last Monday was recorded as the 4th wettest day on record! According to meteorologists, enough rain fell in six hours to match three months' worth. Roads, schools, businesses, and electrical services shut down as the streams of water became torrents, sending cars and other debris floating down streets in some places.

For people in our neighborhoods, flooded homes, landslides, cold damp clothing/bedding and **lots** of mud, are dreaded, yet familiar challenges this time of year.



Below & right: Erik & helpers putting tarps on leaky roofs.



Muddy tire stairway.



Houses along the canyon hillsides take a beating from water and mud.



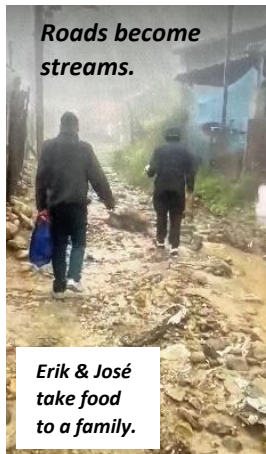
Vehicles plow through!



GRACIAS!



Cold, wet kids.



Roads become streams.

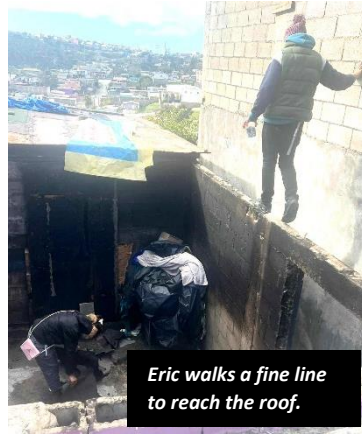
Erik & José take food to a family.



José (left), & Erik (right), with helpers, after securing a tarp in the rain and fog.

Erik and José were well received as they made the rounds checking in on families who were surprised and grateful for the tarps, blankets, food, and assistance they were offered to help weather the storm. Many thanks once again for allowing us to direct your giving. Although many homes were damaged, we're happy to report that through this stormy week there were no serious injuries or lives lost in our areas. **Thank you** for your prayers also!

What good is it, my brothers and sisters, if someone claims to have faith but has no deeds? Can such faith save them? Suppose a brother or sister is without clothes and daily food. If one of you says to them, "Go in peace; keep warm and well fed," but does nothing about their physical needs, what good is it? James 2:14-16



Eric walks a fine line to reach the roof.



Getting it done!



Estrella, thankful her dog Negra escaped the fire.

More thanks as well from Estrella, (V&O teen helper) and her mom, who lost almost everything recently in a house fire while they were out. Fortunately, their house was made of cement brick, so didn't burn completely and is re-buildable, however the rain was compounding things last week, so Erik set to work tarping the roof for them. V&O has also been helping with cleaning up and setting up with needed items and supplies.

THREE KINGS DAY (JAN 6)



The kids and moms in Ejido enjoyed a special day of fun, food, games, and a Bible lesson from Galatians 5:22-23 on the "Fruits of the Spirit." Hot chocolate and Rosca de Reyes, (Three Kings Bread) were a special treat! It was also an opportunity to give out some of the last Christmas toys to those who had not yet received one.



Hortencia, Erik & Philip at Christmas.

Another reason to celebrate...

After having Pastor Erik working with us over the past few months, he has agreed to continue into 2024. He will continue to work in a pastoral role with kids and adults alongside Hortencia. We're thankful to God for sending him our way and thankful to those of you who have been praying for this also! We look forward to the new opportunities this brings to reach more people with the Good News!

THANK YOU again for your partnership with us in this work!

On behalf of us all down here, God bless! *Joyce, Philip, & Hortencia.*