

SNAP-SHOTS

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A SPECIAL PROJECT

Thirteen years ago, Marcelino, husband, and father of 5 young children, was struck by a car while walking home from his road construction job. As he lay badly injured, he recalled seeing the same car backing at speed straight towards him again before a "figure in white" suddenly pulled him to safety at the edge of the road. From there he remembers nothing more, as he fell into a coma for the next 6 weeks.

Because Marcelino had no ID on him, he was taken by the Red Cross to a facility. His family would not find him until 9 long days later.

Marcelino sustained multiple internal injuries and broken bones from the accident. His wife was told by doctors he would never walk or talk again. After 7 operations and 2 months in hospital he was finally released to go home. It took 2 years before he would prove the doctors wrong.

Today, despite his scars, disabilities and limitations, Marcelino walks and talks and has held down a job as a night watchman 6 nights a week for the last 11 years.

The accident profoundly impacted his life, both physically and spiritually. With addictions prevalent in his family, Marcelino knows the path he was on before it happened was not a good one.

During his recovery, it was his wife Francisca's strong faith, help from a brother, visits and support from Pastor Von, (and undoubtedly others), that kept him going. Marcelino committed his life to Christ during that time and is thankful to God for bringing him through all of the hardships and obstacles to where he is today. His and Francisca's testimony is well known in their neighborhood and church, as is their hospitality, generosity, encouragement and help to others in times of need.

Several months ago while paying a visit to Marcelino and his family we noticed the stairs to their house, (which have always been quite precarious), were looking even worse for wear after a wet winter. Knowing a fall for Marcelino, or anyone else for that matter, could be disastrous, we decided to investigate some options for having them rebuilt. In early March we loosely formulated a plan to take them on as a project with a US group who were planning to come to TJ this month, but due to COVID 19 their trip was of course cancelled.

However, due to God's providence, funds for the project became available to us this month and with a little investigation among locals we were able to find a young Mexican contractor who knew Marcelino and his family and he was only too happy to build the stairs at a very discounted price if we were able to pay for the materials. It was a deal! And in just under 3 days he and his 2 workers completed the job.



Marcelino during his recovery at home.



Cesar, Noe and Hortencia look down to Marcelino's house from the street above.



Before...

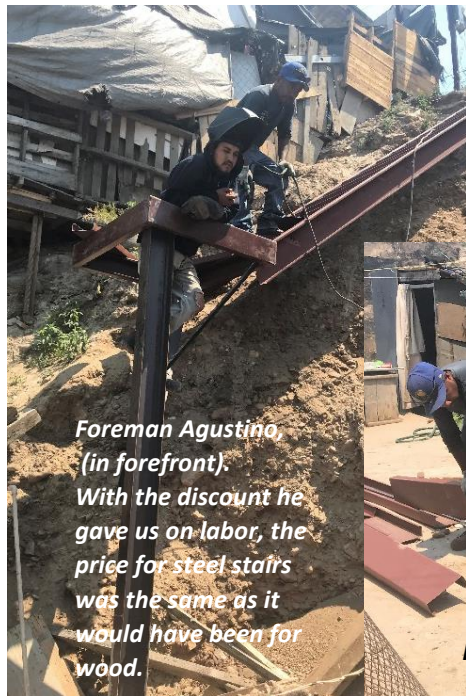
After more rain in March, parts of the stairs collapsed. Marcelino's sons did their best to make repairs with whatever they could find. (Hardware stores were closed at the time due to CVD 19).



Neighbor's house. (Yes, it is occupied).

Marcelino's house.

First section of the new steel stairs installed.



Foreman Agustino, (in forefront). With the discount he gave us on labor, the price for steel stairs was the same as it would have been for wood.

The stairs have made a huge difference to everyday life for Marcelino and his family. It's something they dreamed about for years, but just could never afford. (Marcelino's wage is about \$60 a week). However, they never gave up praying! Last week a neighbor stopped by to admire the stairs and asked Marcelino how in the world he afforded them? With his big smile, he simply replied, "I didn't. They're a gift from God!."



Hard at work.



Hortencia talks to Agustino above.

Francisca and daughter Viviana, so happy!



Marcelino shares a Bible verse with Hortencia about how God answers prayers.

BRIEF UPDATE ON COVID 19 SITUATION IN TIJUANA ...

Tijuana and MX in general continue to see a rise in cases as they re-open businesses and try to resume everyday life. TJ hospitals are struggling to staff their wards as their health care workers and doctors lack the necessary protective equipment. One in five cases of CVD19 in MX are health care workers with over 280 deaths among them at this point. Von & On is continuing to assist families in as many practical ways as possible, dropping off food, hygiene, and medical supplies so people can at least stay at home. We do have entire families within our communities who are at varying levels of illness. We're also acutely aware of the need to take precautions not to put ourselves at risk of contracting and then spreading the virus further. For this we ask your continued prayers of protection, wisdom, and guidance. We can't thank you enough for covering us in prayer these last few months. So far everyone in our team and their families have remained healthy. Praise God!



Stairs complete with handrails, rest stop and non-slip surface. Agustino and his workers went above and beyond! We slipped them each a bonus for the great job done.

Total cost less than \$1500

MUCHAS GRACIAS!

Marcelino & Francisca with youngest son Isaias, daughter Viviana and grandson Abdiel.

Right: While out and about this week it was neat to see Sarai, (who had eye surgery last year), along with her little sister and cousin. Her eye is completely healed now!

THANK YOU AND GOD BLESS YOU FOR YOUR PART IN MINISTERING TO KIDS AND FAMILIES IN THE BARRIOS OF TJ!

Joyce, Philip, Hortencia & the Team.



Give thanks to the LORD, for He is good! Ps. 107:1