

SNAP-SHOTS

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It's official, June 20 marked the beginning of summer! Good business ahead for ice cream vendors, especially in the hot, dusty, kid filled barrios where we work! However, for one ice cream vendor things have not been looking too good for the summer ahead...

Don Jesús has been pushing his cart up and down the steep and potholed roads in his area and beyond for many years. A familiar face in his neighborhoods, Don Jesús is respected and appreciated for what he does. As a faithful Christian man, Don Jesús is known not only for providing cool *edible* refreshments on hot summer days, but also for his listening ear to those who may be needing *spiritual* refreshment as well. Don Jesús takes time to ask his customers how they are doing with a genuine interest in what's going on in their lives. For him to spend 30 minutes or more with someone who needs to share their troubles, is not uncommon. He often prays for them and also invites them to his church. Although it may cost him time/businesswise on occasions, Don Jesús says he knows God will always bless him regardless.

This month it came to our attention, (through his wife Susana, who is in our sewing class), that Don Jesús was not out and about working as usual. At 61 years old, the physical effort of constantly pushing his cart uphill has taken its toll. He has 3 hernias, one of which is large and beginning to obstruct his intestines. He cannot push his cart anymore and he needs surgery, soon!

Although he's been on the waiting list at General Hospital for years, he (like many others), fears having surgery there and with the extra backlog, shortage



Don Jesús at work.

of staff etc. due to COVID, it doesn't look like "soon" would be a likely scenario anyway.

So, after praying, and persuading Don Jesús to see Dr Santos, (V&O "go-to" doctor), who has been extremely helpful, God has made it possible for Don Jesús to have the surgery next week. Providing all his preliminary tests come back ok, he is scheduled for Monday! Of course, it won't be cheap, at least by Don Jesús standards, \$2400 is an insurmountable amount for a family like his, especially with his lost income now. However, the family is pitching in to help as best they can, along with his church family and neighbors. And although our medical account is primarily used for kids and teens, we believe God is leading us to help Don Jesús in this situation also. So, the amount remaining after the community collection is finished, will be funded by V&O and thankfully, because of many of you, sufficient funds are available to help!

For many of us here on the supporting side of the ministry, it's incomprehensible to think that a fairly common surgery would be so far out of reach and could mean life or death because of a few thousand dollars. Yet for the poor, this happens all too often!

Don Jesús and Susana's gratitude to God and His people has been clearly evident this week... to you, in Christ's love, from them and us,
MUCHISIMAS GRACIAS!!
MAY GOD BLESS YOU ALL!!



Don Jesús and Susana returning home from their appointment with Dr Santos.



Do not withhold good from those to whom it is due when it is in your power to act. Proverbs 3:27

A HOUSE CHURCH MEETING... at the home of Don Jesús and Susana's daughter and son in law, which was started by their pastor, his wife and 6 children several months ago on Tuesday evenings. Don Jesús and Susana enjoy attending each week, (as well as their own church on Sundays). Hortencia was invited to speak. The pastor and others remembered Pastor Von and also shared some great stories about him and the impact he made on their lives.

We were able to donate 24 bibles to the church. They were most grateful. Hortencia also picked up the last large print bible we had left in our bodega and wrote a dedication note inside, (on behalf of us all at V&O), for Don Jesús, who couldn't believe it... he had been praying for one just like it, for a long time!



A musical family! The pastor, his wife and son leading the worship.



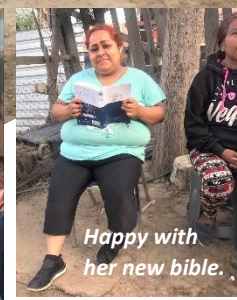
Waiting to begin.



The pastor's daughters help teach the kids.



Kids coloring.

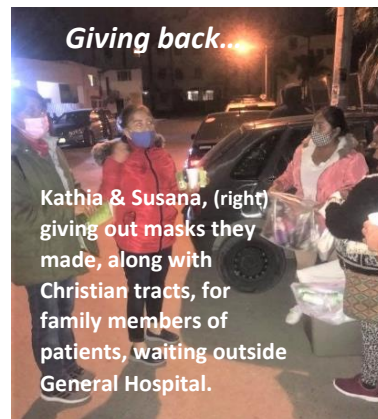


Happy with her new bible.



Don Jesús opening his new bible.

A little more about Susana...
Susana is one of our sewing students. Learning to sew different items takes her a little longer than the younger ones, but despite this, she never gives up, persevering with a humble and teachable spirit. She has made many useful items now for the ministry and continues to improve her skills. It's been a blessing to see her confidence grow and she often expresses to Hortencia how thankful she is for the opportunity and fellowship each week which she says has changed her life.



Giving back...

Kathia & Susana, (right) giving out masks they made, along with Christian tracts, for family members of patients, waiting outside General Hospital.



Susana at our bodega making burritos for the homeless.



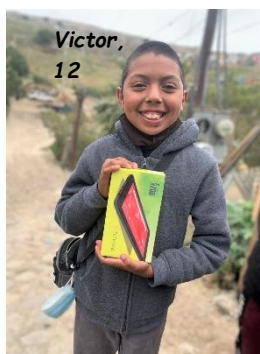
One of several blankets Susana has completed for winter/Christmas giveaways.



Eliot, 11



Alexis, 16



Victor, 12



GRACIAS!

LAPTOPS, TABLETS AND SCHOOL SUPPLIES...
Laptops & tablets have become necessary tools for many kids to keep up with their schoolwork. Any donations are appreciated! School supplies are also needed. Most schools in TJ are still closed. Re-opening dates remain uncertain.

Last but not least, a brief update on last month's story... good news from the orphanage. It appears **ALL** the kids will be able to move to the new orphanage. The new directors are also happy with the staff who stayed on. We know many of you have been praying. **THANK YOU!!** Until next month, God bless! *Joyce, Philip, Hortencia & Team.*