

# SNAP-SHOTS

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## A MEDICAL MONTH

The barrios in which we work can be hazardous. Infrastructure is often substandard and in some areas, non-existent. Located on steep canyons, swampy gullies, rocky, potholed and debris strewn terrain, everyday accidents are common. Handling and assisting with medical needs is a large part of our ministry and this month in particular seemed to bring case after case, keeping Hortencia and the team very busy!



Visiting Janet, (twin Jasmin in background).

**Janet** 14, slipped and tumbled down the canyon where she lives. She broke *both* her ankles! Her mom Elly (a widow), is raising Janet, her twin sister Jasmin and their younger brother Abram 11.

Elly works at a local supermarket, which thankfully provides a level of medical insurance, so Janet was able to receive prompt treatment at the hospital. However, transport to appointments and medications were another issue, so V&O stepped in to help. Janet will be off her feet for at least 2 months and will need physical therapy. In the meantime we'll stop by to visit and try to help keep her occupied during the long hot summer break!



Last year... Paty (from V&O team), with Dr Santos,

pondering how to remove a piece of wire from her impaled toe!



Santi home from the hospital.

**Santi** 5, is also facing a long summer out of action. After falling out of a car, (fortunately not travelling at speed), the unaware driver accidentally backed over him. As a result, Santi's pelvis and groin were partly crushed and his right leg broken in multiple places. He underwent emergency surgery and will need more in the coming months. The doctors have said it will be 6-12 months before he can start to walk again. It's yet unknown how full his recovery will be, so please pray for this. With the power of prayer and youth on his side hopefully he will recover fully. (Please also pray for the driver who is feeling terrible!) V&O has helped with supplying a kid size wheelchair for Santi, assisting with meds and costs of transport to hospital and therapy appointments.



With big brother...

just had stitches out.

## Raúl & Alex

Raúl 9, has featured previously in our newsletters. He was born with hydrocephalus and receives ongoing care and therapy. V&O helps with the costs of transport, diapers, special food, etc. We also hope to obtain a special wheelchair for him soon, as he has outgrown his stroller and needs proper support for his head and body. Last week, his mom spent a sleepless night in the hospital with Raúl, as he was having convulsions, possibly triggered by a day of very hot weather. The next day soon after their arrival home, Raúl's brother Alex, fell off a rocking chair and broke his arm! So, Sara was right back at the hospital again, only this time with Alex!



Raúl, growing too big for his stroller.



Alex 11

GRACIAS!

Mom Sara, feeling exhausted, but grateful!

(Fan from V&O to help keep the house cooler).



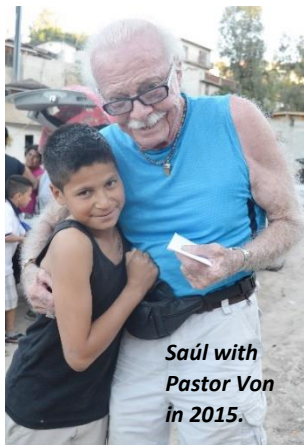
### Axel 11,

Up until a couple of months ago, Axel was a normal kid going to school and playing soccer with his friends.

Then, one day out of the blue, he began feeling tired and weak. This continued for a few weeks until he was so weak he couldn't walk or even sit up on his own. His parents took him to hospital where after being tested, he was diagnosed with Guillain Barre Syndrome, a rare neurological disorder which causes the body's immune system to attack the nervous system.

Fortunately, in most cases if diagnosed early, patients recover within 12 months, but special treatment and physical therapy is required to prevent muscles and joints from stiffening/contracting, and to rebuild muscle strength.

When Hortencia heard about the situation she decided to pay the family a visit. After meeting Axel, and seeing how weak he was, she prayed with him and on opening her eyes was moved to see tears running down his face. "It felt so good when you prayed for me," Axel said. Unfortunately, his Dad's insurance doesn't cover therapy, so his parents had been selling whatever they could to repay a high interest loan, which they'd taken out to pay the \$600 needed to start Axel's first month of therapy, which he will need for several months. When Hortencia told them that V&O could help, they could hardly believe it and after a discussion it was agreed they would pay what they could, with V&O covering the rest. For them this has been a *huge* burden lifted, for which they're eternally grateful. Axel's therapy has been going well and his condition has begun to improve. Praise God!! And **thank you** for your generous part in this! Please continue the prayers!



Saúl with Pastor Von in 2015.

### Saúl 21,

The month of June ended sadly for us at V&O. Yes, the barrios in which we work can be hazardous... and they can also be dangerous. Some are largely controlled by cartels. There's a hierarchy and if certain people are crossed, there are consequences for the offenders, often fatal ones. Unfortunately, such was the case for Saúl, who made a foolish mistake which ended up costing him his life. A few days ago, as he walked home to his house Saúl was shot at point blank range by a hooded motorcyclist.

Saúl was the oldest of 12 siblings and well known and loved by Pastor Von. He was often the first one to come running when he heard that Pastor Von was in his neighborhood. Saúl's sudden death at 21 was a stark reminder of Pastor Von's admonitions and example of loving and reaching these kids with the Gospel, *especialmente* while they're young, as too many in these tough neighborhoods only make it into early adulthood, with some sadly, not even reaching it.

We don't know exactly where Saúl "was at" spiritually when he died, but we do know that he had heard the Gospel many times. We also believe that God created and loved Saúl and that He is a just and merciful God. We pray that Saúl's life and death were not in vain but a reminder to all those who knew him, as well as to all of us, just how temporary our earthly lives

are and the utmost importance and urgency, (while there is still time), of putting our hope and faith in Jesus Christ, the *only one* through which we can receive eternal life.

THANK YOU once again for your partnership with us in this life changing work that God has entrusted us each with!

Joyce, Philip, Hortencia & the Team.

At the cemetery



Below & right: Youth Pastor Eric, (who has begun assisting us), prays with Saúl's family and some of our team.



(Pastor Eric in center)

Seek the LORD while He may be found, Call upon Him while He is near. Let the wicked forsake his way, And the unrighteous man his thoughts; Let him return to the LORD, And He will have mercy on him; And to our God, For He will abundantly pardon. Isaiah 55:6-13.