

SNAP-SHOTS

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Hortencia speaks to a group of young men at the rehab.

Sometimes ministry takes us into places out of our routine. A couple of months ago, Hortencia and the team decided to pay a visit to a young man in a rehab facility. Miguel, a likable young father of 3 has been well known to us over the years, and so it was not good news when we heard he had succumbed to the ever-present temptation of drugs. Thankfully, with some strong persuasion from his family, he took the necessary steps to admit himself into a rehab before he went too much further down that dark path.

The rehab center he is in, is run by the government and houses around 200 men. It opened about 2 years ago and like most similar facilities in TJ, is underfunded, understaffed, and overcrowded. However, Hortencia and the team were pleased to find Miguel, who was surprised and happy to see them, generally doing well. Their visit sparked interest from his friends there also, and soon opened up opportunities for prayer and sharing encouragement from God's Word to a small group. It was more than 3 hours later and getting dark by the time the team left, with

invitations from the director, and some of the men, to "please come back soon!"

On hearing that our team were the first visitors to come and speak about God, and seeing the need, but knowing it was a little out of our realm, Hortencia made a phone call a few days later to her nephew Jesús, who lives on the other side of the city. Jesús, (42), now a fully employed, happily married, and dedicated father of two, had 12 years earlier been an addict living on the streets, until an encounter with Christ dramatically changed his life. He responded affirmatively to Hortencia's request to come and speak at the rehab.

So, a couple of weeks ago, Hortencia and the team along with Jesús and his family, returned there to share his living testimony, and about the freedom from addiction he now enjoys through his life in Christ.

The response was positive, everyone listened well, some asked questions and several agreed to us praying with them. Thanks to the gifts you send, we also were able to distribute New Testament Bibles to each one. Jesús has since agreed to visit at Aprovechando la Oportunidad (Seizing the Opportunity) Rehab Center, on a monthly basis going forward.



Jesús (center), walks through the courtyard at the rehab.



Jesús shares his testimony.



Our team serving a meal at the rehab.

No matter who we are or what we do, we know that our God is a God of second chances who never gives up on us. So, we ask for your prayers for each of these mostly young men and pray that others would also come alongside us to help Jesús and his family minister to them, as they take on this exciting opportunity. **Thank you!**

Then he said to his disciples, "The harvest is plentiful, but the laborers are few; therefore, pray earnestly to the Lord of the harvest to send out laborers into his harvest." Matthew 9:35-38

MINISTERING TO KIDS...

With the wet weather going on into March, along with power outages in some of the neighborhoods, we've been continuing distributions of warm clothes and food to kids on our weekly rounds. This week when we visited in Lagunitas we gave out some donations of shoes as well. Fernando (10) is mildly autistic but clearly understood where his brand new shoes ultimately came from. He was so excited after putting them on, he waved his arms in the air and shouted, "It's a blessing! It's a blessing! Thanks to God!"



Fernando putting on his new shoes.



So happy!



Paty putting sweaters on kids.



GRACIAS!

Below: The kids at Las Memorias (AIDS Hospice) are always happy to see us. They live on site at the hospice with parents who are terminally ill. Being at the far end of town they don't often get visitors. We bring supplies for the hospice plus treats and a Bible lesson for the kids.



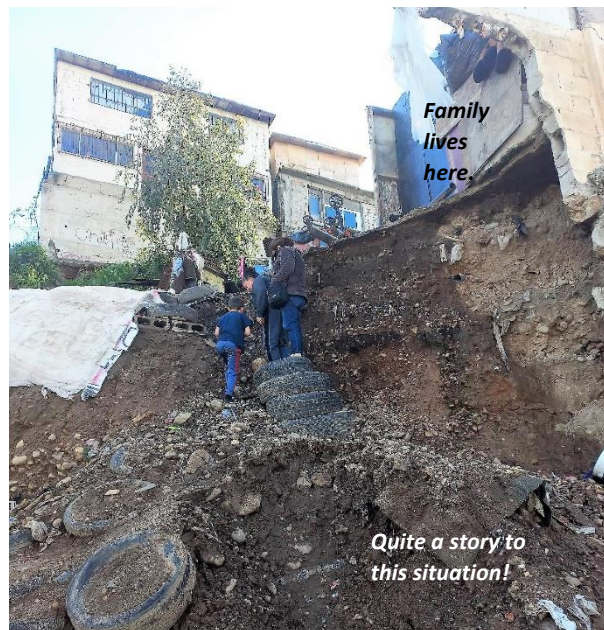
Las Memorias Hospice



Paty (right) talks to a caregiver at Las Memorias, while kids wait for their Bible Story Activity booklets and treats.



Working on their lesson.



Family lives here.

Quite a story to this situation!

Visiting special families... (Left) Paty and Hortencia take food to a young family living in a condemned house on the edge of a hillside that collapsed several years ago. Below: A visit to Blanca's house. Blanca is raising four grandchildren after their parents were incarcerated.



GRACIAS!

Despite some of the situations they are in, we are so often encouraged by the joy kids bring into our ministry. They are a blessing! They are a blessing! Thank you for partnering with us! Until next month, Joyce, Phillip, Hortencia & the Team!

But Jesus said, "Let the little children come to me and do not hinder them, for to such belongs the kingdom of heaven."