

SNAP-SHOTS

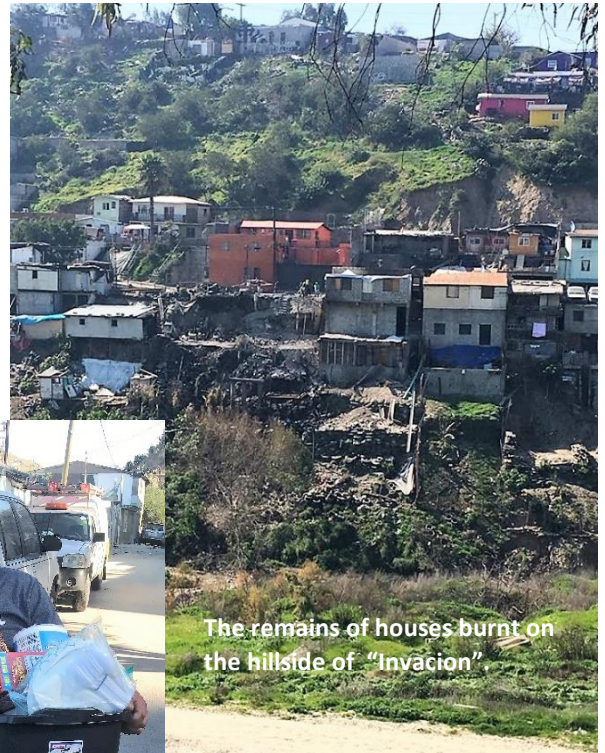
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Greetings:

Well winter is almost over down here in these southern parts, much to the relief of many of the people we serve. The sun is back, and the temperatures are rising. Winter rain and cold temps brought extra challenges in our barrios. Small crowded, damp shacks with dirt floors and leaky roofs make for uncomfortable and unhealthy living conditions. Colds, bronchitis and pneumonia time! These last few months have seen us busy helping families to keep warm and dry. To add to the challenge this month, a fire caused by a faulty gas cylinder ended with 8 families losing their homes altogether. Thanks to God no lives lost! With your help, we were able to provide hot meals, food, clothes, blankets, hygiene kits, and household items as well as funds to help each family with transport and expenses to replace their important documents lost in the fire. They were **very** grateful for the help, actually somewhat taken aback by it. Thank you!



The remains of houses burnt on the hillside of "Invasion".



Families pray together after the fire.



GRACIAS!

One of the houses burnt had been the meeting place for a small church. Although the elderly couple who pastor the church lost most of their belongings, they still have walls and a roof for shelter as fortunately, their house was built from cement block. They have been sharing what's left of it with 2 other families since. Their faith and fortitude have been a humbling example. Please keep them in your prayers.



Above: At the Pastor's house; a mom, grandma and baby, settle in for a cold night ahead.



The pastor's granddaughter sings a worship song with Hortencia. (Damaged musical instruments in the background).



Left: Hortencia talks with Pastora Petra and gives her a new Bible.

Share with the Lords people who are in need. Practice hospitality. Romans 12:13

NEW SOCKS AND SHOES

While out and about in the barrios we often come across kids without proper shoes and socks or shoes that are ill-fitting and/or dirty inside and out. Over the winter months we've been keeping a supply of new socks, clean shoes, hats, jackets and sweaters in our vehicles for kids in need. For some it's a real novelty to wear socks and it's always neat to see the smiles and reactions when the kids get them on.

One little boy was so excited to receive a pair of shoes with flashing lights on them, he couldn't stop jumping up and down to see them work. As we drove away we could see his lights bouncing all the way down the road back to his house!

Thank you to all who send funds and donations of shoes and socks to help us with this.



A warm hat and socks.



Receiving snacks while waiting.



Lupe cleans feet before putting on new socks and shoes.



A new hoodie and hat, (made by V&O sewers!)

BOOKS AND BIBLES

It's been said "A book is a gift you can open again and again."

When it comes to the book of the Bible, nothing could be more true!

Over the last couple of years interest has grown among the kids and adults in the Christian books and bibles we offer through the ministry.

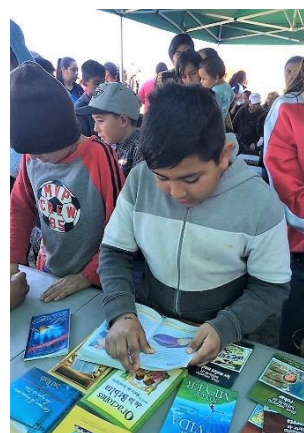
Unfortunately, we don't have enough books to offer to everyone on our Community Days, so those who are seeking help with a particular trial or hardship are given first priority.

We also often give out books and bibles on our home visits and over this past year at least 12 moms have saved up to buy the Children's Bible, (pictured below), for \$5 each, (discounted from \$21). Kids also receive bible story books as rewards for learning memory verses. Thank you for investing with us in these valuable resources for the people we serve. They hold God's divinely inspired Word that makes a difference in lives for eternity!

On behalf of us all at Von & On, Joyce, Philip and Hortencia



Children's Bible



*Your word is a lamp for my feet, a light on my path.
Psalm 119:105*