

SNAP-SHOTS

E-mail: vonandon@mail.com Snail Mail: PO Box 19787, San Diego, CA 92159 Web: www.vonandon.com

TRUSTING IN GOD

Like many, Benita and her husband Remedios, moved to Tijuana from “down south” years ago, in search of work. With much determination, a little trial and error and a lot of hard work, they slowly built a small business selling Tejuino, (a Mexican drink made from corn). Every day, (except Sunday), you can find them at the corner plaza in Pedregal along with their eldest son Neftali 16, selling from their 2 small mobile carts.



Benita, Neftali & Remedios at their Tejuino stand with some much-needed new shoes they received from V&O.

Frequent passersby are Hortencia, her driver and others in our team either going in and out of the nearby barrios or meeting someone at the plaza.

For several years now, ever since the ministry helped a terminally ill friend of Benita’s, they wave out when they see us, offering free drinks. (Knowing they can’t really afford it, Hortencia occasionally slips them a bag of groceries or a pair of shoes etc.)

A few months ago, on one of these stops, Benita mentioned she had been having abdominal pain. Weeks earlier a doctor had sent her for an ultrasound scan. It was expensive and she hadn’t been able to afford to go back to find out the results. “I heard you take people to a doctor?” she asked Hortencia, “Do you think he could look at my scan and tell me the results?”

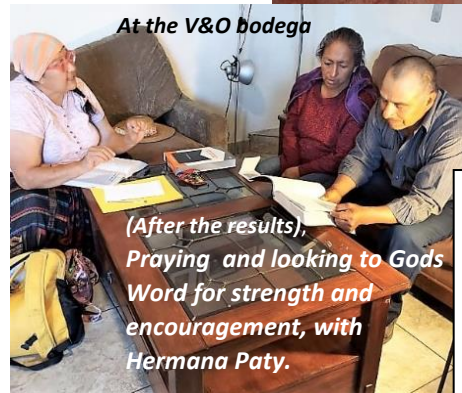
Sadly, the results were not good. Hortencia saw the look of concern immediately on Dr Santos face as he examined the scan later that week.

Tests confirmed his fears. There were numerous tumors. It was cancer in an advanced and aggressive stage. There had been warning signs; a lump 9 months earlier, but it had been removed without proper testing and cleared as “harmless” at another medical center, (with not the best of reputations, but the only one Benita could afford at the time). Had it been properly examined, chances of recovery could have been good, but now... it was just too late!

Since the sad news, Benita and Remedios have been coming to terms with the situation. It’s been hard to explain to their 3 sons, especially Moses the youngest, who is sticking close by his mom most days now. A close family, strong in the Lord, they are trusting and relying on Him for their help and strength. Grateful for His provision they also send sincere thanks to you who send prayers, encouragement, financial,



Above: At the hospital, Remedios waiting for Benita’s test results.



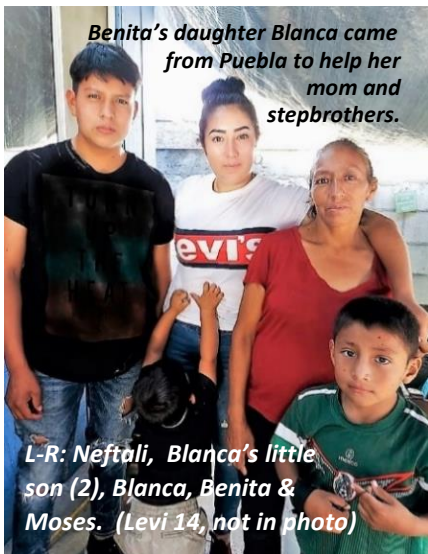
At the V&O bodega

(After the results), Praying and looking to Gods Word for strength and encouragement, with Hermana Paty.

physical, and spiritual help through the ministry, to families like theirs. Only God knows exactly how much time Benita has left here on earth with her family. However long it is though, we at Von & On want to be there to help and support them through to the day when Benita’s spirit will leave her earthly body and victoriously enter her new heavenly body for all eternity.

Jesus Christ has paved this way, not only for Benita, but for **all of us**, who put our faith and trust in Him. **Thank you Jesus**, for this promise that Benita, her family and **we all** can trust in. Hallelujah! What a day of rejoicing that will be!

But as it is written, “No eye has seen, no ear has heard, no mind has imagined the things that God has prepared for those who love Him.” 1 Cor 2:9



Benita’s daughter Blanca came from Puebla to help her mom and stepbrothers.

L-R: Neftali, Blanca’s little son (2), Blanca, Benita & Moses. (Levi 14, not in photo)

UPDATE ON LESLI (from last month's newsletter)

Lesli has been diagnosed with Arnold Chiari Malformation, a malformation of the skull at birth, not easily detected as it usually doesn't present problems until adolescence when the brain begins to grow through an abnormal opening at the base of the skull into the spinal column. There are different types of ACM and it's not yet been determined which one Lesli has. The condition can vary in severity but is also often treatable, sometimes with or without surgery. Unfortunately, at this point, other than pain management nothing can be done yet until the conclusion of more tests and possibly until Lesli stops growing.

Lesli has another appointment with the specialist in 2 weeks. Please continue to pray for her. **Thank you!**

THIS SIDE OF THE BORDER ... behind the scenes ...

To operate a cross-cultural ministry, it takes a cross-cultural team. This month we wanted to take the opportunity to introduce some of the people on *this* side of the border who dedicate their time, talents, and energy to help make things run smoothly for our team on the ground in Mexico.

JULIE MCFADZEAN is our "Bookkeeper Extraordinaire," (as we like to call her), and many of you who give financially, will have received correspondence from Julie.

As well as keeping our books in order, Julie also does the banking, collects our mail and packages each week, prints, folds, and mails the newsletters each month, manages our website & PayPal account, makes sure insurance on our vehicles is always current, buys all office supplies etc., prepares tax documents and contribution statements and occasionally runs errands. And all with a smile!

Julie works almost full-time for another employer and part-time with us. She is a delight to work with and was an answer to prayer in the first year we began working without Pastor Von and his also excellent Bookkeeper Lou Johnson, who retired, (at over 80 years of age!) and has since gone on to be with the Lord.

Julie often tells us she loves her V&O job and we are **most** grateful for all the work she gladly does!



JAY & MARY MASSELLO (also answered prayers!), began donating their time and talents working with us about a year ago. Mary coordinates donation drop-offs at our church. An efficient organizer and packer, Mary also prepares loads for Jay to transfer across the border most Tuesdays after work. With his military background, we can always rely on Jay to be punctual, dependable, calculated, and consistent, so together they make a great team!

Transferring goods across the border these days is a little different than it used to be years ago, a lot more high-tech scrutiny, (both sides), but Jay was quick to



Preparing for a border crossing at our storage container in San Diego.

work out a system for getting the most out of each trip. Both he and Mary have SENTRI cards which allow them to use the fast lane when returning to the US.

(A must-have for anyone wanting to avoid long lines in the regular lanes).



Space is a premium in our storage container and vehicles, so we try to stick to a specific list of 'most needed' items we transfer across to Mexico.



Left: Crossing the border into Mexico.



A few changes!
Above & Left: Border from Tijuana into US in 1922, and today in 2021.



MX Secondary inspection & Vehicle Xray... an area we try to avoid! Costs time and \$.



Keeping loads smaller is key.

On behalf of us all down here working the border, **THANK YOU!** You are needed and appreciated!

Joyce, Philip, Hortencia & team.