

SNAP-SHOTS

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"It's so easy to take blessings for granted! A simple part of loving God is not just obedience, worship and praise, but a simple thing like showing gratitude. A simple thing like thanking Him regularly for all the little blessings He sends our way. Blessings we often overlook, and then tend to expect! Thanks, is simply showing an attitude of gratitude... regularly showing love and appreciation for all He constantly gives us." (Pastor Von)

Reading this message from Pastor Von's archives, along with being in the month of Thanksgiving, Hortencia was inspired to teach and talk to kids in our neighborhoods about the importance of being thankful for all the blessings God gives us. Because our ministry is that of giving, most of the time we receive gracious responses for our help. A smile, a hug, "Gracias" and in some cases, tears. It's always nice to feel the appreciation, but we also know that ultimately it all belongs to God, through whom all blessings flow! After conveying this message to the kids, many of them and their parents responded by writing notes of thanks to us, to you and to God. Here are just a few of them...

from Josefina, (young mother of 3)...

Today I want to give thanks for all that you have done for me and my kids. Thanks to God and to you I am in good health because you helped me when I needed it most, when I almost died. I thank God and Von & On Ministries that I am well today. Also, I thank you for helping me with my daughter because thanks to you she was able to have surgery on her eye and now she sees and is no longer teased. Many thanks to all of you. I am very grateful.

Sincerely, Josefina Hernandez (Several years ago Josefina had tuberculosis).

from Vannia, 12...

My dear friends, I hope and wish that this simple note in your hands finds you in good health. I have been very blessed by God and many of you with my backpack and school supplies to continue studying. Thank you very much for helping me with my education. Thank you very much. God bless you. Sincerely, Vannia.



Thank you notes, letters and pictures we received from young, old and in-between, and more still coming!



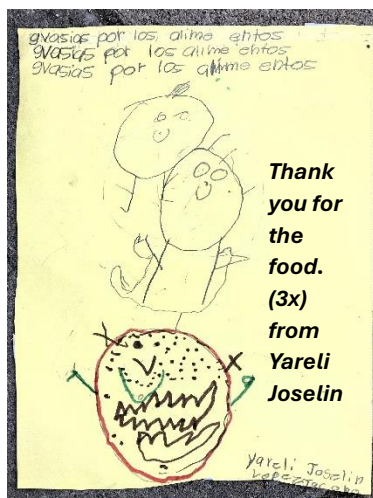
from Maria...

Brothers and sisters please receive this greeting from us. I am a woman 60 years old and my children are grown up. Sometimes I feel lonely. I have one daughter with me.

Sometimes when sadness comes over me I pray to God and the feelings of loneliness go

away and His love fills my life. Often in these times you (V&O) appear with blessings, helping and supporting me with medicine, food and the doctor.

Thank you, I don't know you, but God bless you. Maria



from Yair, 16...

I hope that this finds you well. The reason for this letter is to express my most sincere gratitude for the support we have been given during this time in the ministry. I also want to thank you for the paseo (special outing) I went on. I had a lot of fun with other kids who were very happy also. Even though we had only just met, we all enjoyed ourselves together. (Yair is a V&O Helper).

continued....

from Alma...

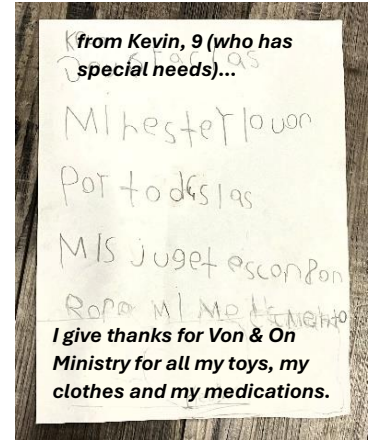
I am Alma Rosa, a caregiver for the kids at Simmsa Childrens Home. I want to thank you for the great support you have given us both spiritually and physically. Thank you for having a spiritual thirst for peace, love and empathy. May God bless you with health and well-being and much love. Gracias!

From Jesús Manuel...

In advance I want to give you my most sincere and great thanks for laying your eyes on me that day and helping me make the start to change my life. Without your help I couldn't have done it. I thank you for helping me turn the page on my life and be rehabilitated. I have been able to recover things I had lost. Today I now have a hope to fight for, and I am reunited with my Jesus Christ. Sincerely, Jesús Manuel.

Some of Jesús Manuel's story from Hortencia... I met Jesús 8 months ago. He was sitting listening to the Word at an evangelical campaign and as soon as I laid eyes on him, I knew his life was going to change, so I sat alongside him. He was trembling and crying and I said to him, "Tonight God wants to change your life." He looked at me very surprised and said, "I want to, but I'm not ready."

Then later that night he came and told me he was ready! So, we took him and 5 others, who had also been living on the streets, to the rehab center. Jesús Manuel has since reconciled with his mom and is now living his life for Jesus.



It is said that gratitude is one of the most powerful human emotions. Once expressed, it changes attitude, brightens outlook and broadens our perspective. It is the greatest of virtues and the parent of all others.

In this "Season of Thanks" we pray you'll be encouraged in knowing that you play an important role in making significant and eternal differences for good in the lives of the poor, disadvantaged and marginalized in the barrios of Tijuana.

Thank you for your prayers, your gifts, your continued compassion, caring and commitment. May God bless you abundantly!



Blanca and her 4 neat grandkids she is raising alone.

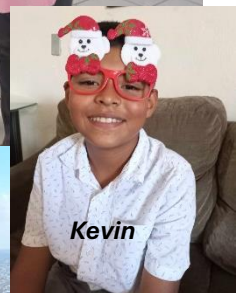


Armando & wife with their extended family.

A few of the FACES BEHIND THE THANKS!



Paty with Jesús Manuel during a V&O visit to the rehab.



Kevin



Above: Leslie & Omar packing Christmas food packs for families. THANK YOU for your help!

Youth who thoroughly enjoyed a special day out this month, putting into practice the principle of perseverance and its rewards, as they climbed to the highest peak in Tijuana, Cerro Colorado.



HAPPY THANKSGIVING!
from all of us at von & on!