

SNAP-SHOTS

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Colder temps were slow to make their way down here this year but finally arrived this month along with several large dumps of rain. Distributing tarps, blankets and warm clothes to help families prepare for winter is one of our main focuses this time of year. Winter can be tough for the elderly, especially for those like Pablo and Valentina who are in their 80s and both blind. With the tarps on their roof from previous years now worn out, their roof leaked in several places and seriously needs replacement. Unfortunately, that's not an option for them at this point so it was decided the next best thing would be to cover the roof completely with a giant size tarp. After a brief search, we were able to find a large, used promotional tent top for a good price. Cesar and helper, (a young man from a local Rehab), worked until dark securing it just in time before the rain! Afterwards, Pablo and Valentina's grateful smiles said it all! MUCHISIMAS GRACIAS!! from them to you for helping to make this possible!



After more than 20 years, Pablo (previously widowed), still jokingly refers to Valentina as his "new wife."



One of the many problem areas in the roof.



Before



After

her belongings are few and she has no family to help, but Eva's faith is evident. A Bible sits near her bed. She counts her blessings and shares what she has with her neighbors. She told us she'd been praying for help before we happened to come her way (unplanned by us), as her roof was leaking. Cesar & Co. were able to put a tarp on her roof, and we've since delivered a blanket, a heater, some food and a pair of glasses, so she can read her Bible better. It's been humbling and inspiring to see Eva's gratitude for her answered prayers!

Do not be anxious about anything but by prayer and petition with thanksgiving, present your requests to God. Philippians. 4:6-7

This verse came to mind after a visit with Eva who lives alone in a small house high on the edge of a canyon. Several days a week she makes her way up and down the steep dirt trail to work, cleaning houses. Her pay is minimal,



Above: Adriana receives a grateful hug from Eva.



THANK YOU!

HELP FROM THE REHAB

From time to time we partner with a local Drug Rehab Center by enlisting their help with projects in the community that require extra manpower, putting tarps on roofs, lifting/moving heavy objects, construction/home repair jobs etc.

Pastor Bismarck, Founder and Director of the rehab allows some of the men (who are far enough along in their recovery), to spend time working outside when opportunities arise. This arrangement so far has proved beneficial for all. The men appreciate the break from confinement and get to contribute *positively* to the community. It also allows them to see things from a different perspective, often exposing the hardships caused to families, particularly the kids, when there is a user in the family. Part of their earnings are also funded back into support of the rehab itself.

We're thankful for this partnership with Pastor Bismarck who understands the grip of addiction as a former drug user also, who answered God's call a number of years ago to make a difference in the lives of others. Many have come to know Christ through this ministry and continue to help by sharing their testimonies to encourage others to do the same.

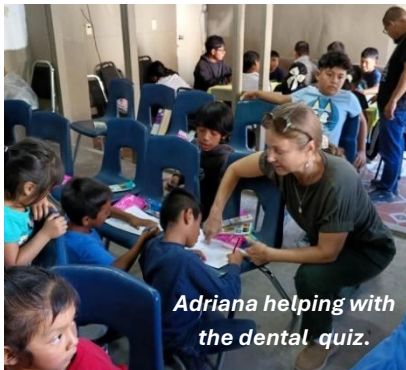


Above & above left: **Pastor Erik shares a message from John 1:46 "Something good will come out of here."**

Left: (L to R), Pastor Erik, Cesar, Pedro (right hand man), & Pastor Bismarck.

DENTAL HYGIENE PRESENTATION

Early this month we had the privilege of visiting two special schools to present a class to kids about the importance of dental hygiene. These two schools are part of the work of another Christian Ministry and were originally founded to help kids who were falling behind academically during the COVID years. They continue to operate serving disadvantaged kids in Rosarito and East TJ. Having worked in the dental industry for over a decade, Cesar took the lead in organizing the presentation and was assisted by Adriana and Maytek in a fun and interactive learning session. Each of the kids took home a dental hygiene pack which contained a toothbrush, toothpaste and dental floss.



Adriana helping with the dental quiz.



Making edible smiles with apple slices and mini marshmallows.



Ready to eat!



Coloring the Tooth Fairy.

READING LESSONS... update from last month. Ana Belen, (plus three!) has made progress with reading lessons thanks to Maytek who offered to help.

Maytek is from a local church and is studying at university.

We cleared out space at our bodega for the classes. Please keep Ana Belen in your prayers! Obstacles have appeared recently with her situation. THANK YOU!



Lunch break.

Ana Belen, 2nd from left.



Maytek & the kids.

"Give thanks to the Lord, for He is good,"
Psalm 136:1

Happy Thanksgiving!
from all of us here
at Von & On!