

SNAP-SHOTS

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"Whoever is kind to the poor lends to the Lord, and he will reward them for what they have done." Prov. 19:17

Each month in Tijuana is full of opportunities to minister to the poor, the sick, the elderly, the marginalized and disabled. This month began with a humbling encounter with José Miguel 48, and his "little sister" Maria 38, who were passing by a local community center as we were leaving an appointment with another family.

Six years ago, José Miguel and Maria made the intrepid journey from the far south of Mexico to the north here in Tijuana, looking for better work opportunities. Coming from Chiapas, (poorest state in MX), where they were no strangers to adversity, Maria experienced the loss of both her legs at the age of 13, after falling from a tree while trying to reach mangos. With multiple broken bones and no means of paying for hospital treatment, the only option available for her family at the time was amputation. Several years later, she and José Miguel lost both of their parents. It seems after this, that they formed a very close bond.

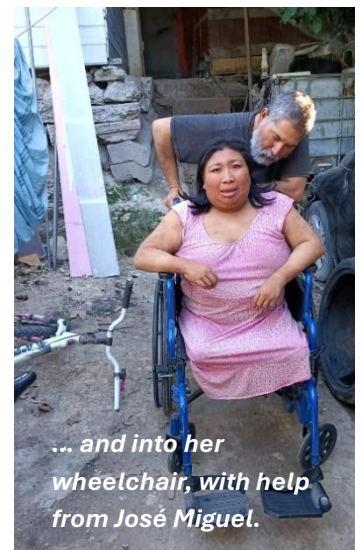
On arrival in Tijuana, José Miguel set about starting his own "business" gathering metal and aluminum from the streets to sell, while Maria relies on the kindness of strangers to drop change in her donation can as she waits for him. Somehow for the past 6 years, they've managed to get by like this, although at times it's meant not having a roof over their heads. Currently they are renting a tiny room in a house shared by several others. They are thankful for the shelter, however, access for Maria to the upstairs room is difficult, and with some of the other tenants displaying rather sketchy behavior lately, it's been difficult for them to feel safe there.

Right now, we're working to help them find a better place to live and to apply

for government assistance that has become available in recent years for those with disabilities. Although it may not be much, it could surely help! In the meantime, we've enlisted assistance from local Pastor Erik, to visit and pray with them as well. **Big thanks** also to the family in San Diego who donated the new wheelchair which was a much needed upgrade on Maria's old one. Although a little bewildered by our help these past weeks, José Miguel and Maria have been extremely grateful and thank you all! Please continue to pray that God's peace, protection and provision be over them. **THANK YOU!**



Maria climbs down the stairs on her hands...



... and into her wheelchair, with help from José Miguel.



Pastor Erik meets with José Miguel outside his home.



GRACIAS!

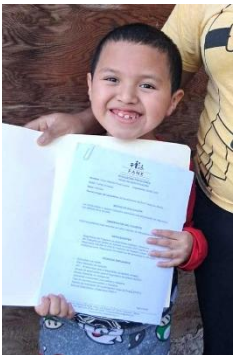
PRAYERS FOR ANA BELEN

Ana Belen is a sweet young girl who at 10 years old has still not learned to read or write properly. Her situation is unfortunately representative of too many kids in the poorer parts of Tijuana who fall through the cracks with their education, particularly since COVID, when schools were closed for 2 years. Compounding Ana Belen's case, a year after schools reopened, her family lost everything in a neighborhood fire. Forced to relocate and now living in a shack perched high on the edge of a steep canyon in an industrial area, accessibility to schools, shops and services is challenging! Up until 2 months ago, Ana Belen and her 2 younger brothers had not attended school for well over a year. Thankfully, with some help from V&O, her brothers have now settled into a school, although the trek to it is quite a distance for them and their mom. Ana Belen, however, did not settle in, as she was too far behind and had difficulty mixing with the other kids. Her mom was consequently told she would need to find another solution for her. With public schools wait-listed, her mom on a low inconsistent income and minimally educated herself, other solutions don't come easy!

This past month with the funds you provided, Ana Belen was professionally assessed. It appears she would be able to catch up if given the right chance. At this point we've found a tutor who kindly works for free at a community center to help kids like Ana Belen. However, the bigger challenge, (he agreed with us), will be how Ana Belen can get to the sessions regularly enough for it to make a difference. It's in the opposite direction of the school her brothers attend and just as far a walk. Mom also needs to get to work as well! We're praying for a solution here and we ask that you please pray too! Ana Belen and so many others like her deserve that chance. **Thank you!**



Outside the community center with Ana Belen, waiting for her first lesson.



GOOD NEWS FOR VICTOR

Victor (6) recently completed his 9 weekly sessions at FANE, Fundacion de Apoyo para Niños Especiales A.C. (Support Foundation for Kids with Special Needs). He's now been officially diagnosed as being at Level 2 on the Autistic Spectrum which means he qualifies for government assistance to help with his education at a special school, which he's excited about. Thank you for your part in this! V&O provided transport for Victor and his mom to the necessary appointments. Hortencia, Paty and others from a local church are continuing to help and support mom who has some health issues of her own.



Our sewing team has been busy making hoodies & hats for kids.



Excited for Christmas!

CHRISTMAS IS COMING!

Preparations are well underway now for our Christmas program which starts first week in December! As in previous years our hope is to provide at least 200 families with items to make a special celebration meal, a gift for each child, a gospel message in coloring book form for kids and in letter form for adults.



MANY THANKS in advance for your help with this! May God bless you abundantly as we enter into this "Season of Thanks and Giving!" On behalf of us all here at V&O, Joyce, Philip & the team!

"And whatever you do whether in word or deed, do it all in the name of the Lord Jesus, giving thanks to God the Father through him." Colossians 3:17