

## Preparing a Place To Call Home

April 2021



From left to right: Alberto, Edgar, Doris, Jose and Maria. They haven't decided yet if they want to paint or if stucco would be better. Either way they're happy to be in!

The thing about finding yourself displaced from where you normally live is that sometimes you may not have an idea of how long your situation may last. That's where Alberto and Doris found themselves last September. They along with their two sons; Jose who's ten years old and Edgar who is four and also has severe disabilities, were told that the apartment they were living in was going up for sale and they had a month to move out. News like this will turn your life upside down.

Alberto had been saving to buy a piece of property in the hopes that one day they could have a place to call their own. However, his job as a security guard only yields 2,200 pesos (115 dollars) per week. Really it's a decent salary relatively speaking, for a worker here in Mexico. Sadly, however, it gets eaten up pretty quickly between rent and young Edgar's medical needs. They were fortunate enough to have nearby relatives

that invited them to move in with them. This was a great temporary solution and allowed Alberto to save his newly freed up rent money to help purchase his land. All throughout the winter, they stayed and Alberto saved his money. But it just wasn't accumulating fast enough. He needed not only the money for the land, but the funds to build the house to put on the land! They couldn't keep imposing on their family who had been so kind, and besides, five months is a long time to live in cramped quarters as guests.

In March, something pretty remarkable happened. Maria, Doris' mom, approached her daughter and son in law and told them she would put her entire retirement savings of a thousand dollars toward the down payment for a property. It did come with the caveat that she would need to live with them as she no longer had her retirement to rely on. As evidenced by her willingness to help in such a remarkable way, Maria's relationship with her family was strong and they were eager to have her join them.

Now that the purchase of the property was in sight, Alberto approached Spectrum who he knew from our outreaches in their community. Arturo who heads up our construction team inspected the property and told him that when Alberto purchased the land, we would help them at the soonest opportunity. However, without regular U.S. groups coming in to serve due to the pandemic, the



Having a firm foundation is always important.



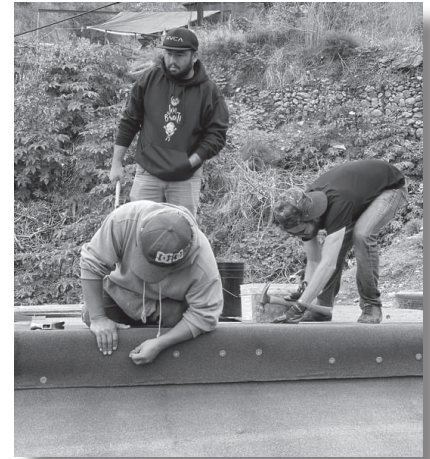
funds for the materials may take a while to put together and the wait could potentially be longer than usual.

Of course God in His providence was already working behind the scenes. A couple in the States had saved the 2,300 dollars it takes to build a house and sent the money the same week Arturo told me about Alberto's situation! It just goes to show that even when we're waiting for God to act, He is moving whether we're aware of it or not. We may not know how long the wait will be, but we can take comfort in understanding that our great and merciful God is never late in providing exactly what we need.

Don't let Arturo's young looks fool you! He knows his stuff and serves Spectrum well working with families to build their homes.

Today Alberto and his family, along with Maria are enjoying getting settled into their brand new home. God has been faithful to Alberto's little clan and they are extremely grateful. We're grateful as well for each of you who pray and give so that we can be here to show God's love to families like Alberto's. In fact there are a couple of groups planning trips for the end of April to build two more houses. Please pray for those families as each one has a different story and each need is an opportunity God can use to reveal who He is. Sometimes the wait seems long, but what we hope they discover is the depth and quality of God's love and His desire for them to have an eternal home with Him!

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Putting the finishing touches on the roof



This was from a house we built in February. We love it when the families are able to help. Even the kids like to get in on the action!

From all of us at Spectrum,

Matt Kooi  
Director of Spectrum Ministries



We're thankful for the groups and individuals who are able to come down and help us build!

*"My Father's house has many rooms; if that were not so, would I have told you that I am going there to prepare a place for you?" - John 14:2*