

Getting People In The Doors

November/December 2018

“Good luck with that!” This was the comment a person responded with when I explained our plan to partner with Mexican churches in each of the communities in which Spectrum works. It was obvious this person had given up hope that we could find a good healthy church in any of our neighborhoods. Maybe at a deeper level they had even abandoned the idea that there could be a change in the spiritual condition that exists here. I get it! It’s hard to see the same old generational patterns of sin and hopelessness that exist and not just want to throw your hands in the air and walk away.

But I don’t think God feels that way. He hasn’t given up on Tijuana. The people we work with aren’t beyond His reach or too far gone! And where else can generational sin like abuse and violence be broken? Only through a grace filled, Gospel-sharing, disciple-making, Bible-teaching, loving church.



This little guy scored a Coke and a bag of goodies at our outreach during the day, and came back for pizza at the carnival that night!

So over the last five years we’ve worked to find good churches we can partner with, and with God’s help



Face paint was a big hit!

we’ve found some! Spectrum continues to do everything we do - the love, the help, and the relationship building – only now more intentionally use it to point people to churches near them. In fact we’ve invited our churches to use our Spectrum activities to reach out to the people we work with. One pastor while thanking me said, ‘We don’t have the means to do an outreach like Spectrum does. We don’t have the funds, or the vehicles, or the tents you use. We wouldn’t even have a place to store the tents if we had them! Thanks for helping us connect with the people in our community!’

In the seven neighborhoods we work in we now have church connections in six of them. And God willing, the seventh neighborhood will have a new church (planted by former Spectrum staff, Salomon and Megan Guzman) by this time next year!



The kids won tickets at the games and then came to our Spectrum store to cash in for prizes.

A prime example of how this works was on full display earlier this month. One Thursday we held our Spectrum wash day in a neighborhood where we've worked since the mid 1970's. Hygiene, haircuts, fruits and vegetables, medical help, clothes and games for kids brought many people out of their homes and down to the dirt soccer field where we hold the event. The Gospel was shared and the pastor and several people from the church joined us to serve and have conversations with people in their community. Later that evening we went back to the church and put on a kids carnival for children in the area. Over sixty kids came through the doors of the church for

the event and had an absolute

blast! Two days later, on Saturday, the pastor asked me to come and teach at a marriage conference they were holding. It was so encouraging to see couples from the church come out to hear about God's design for their marriage. **Slowly we're seeing people who we work with go through the doors and join the life of these churches!** Thank you for so faithfully supporting Spectrum and helping us position ourselves to be a part of their growth and spiritual transformation of the people we work with!



The kids lined up for BB gun target shooting at the carnival!



The shelves are in to hold the toys and now the decorating has begun!

The Christmas Bus is Coming!

The seats are out of the bus we use to transport our gifts into our neighborhoods and the shelving is being put in and decorated as we speak. We're just over two weeks away from the start of our Christmas season, giving toys to each of the kids in our communities! Please continue to pray and consider giving to help us reach our goal of **1,200 toys**. Many of you already have and we appreciate that so much! We're over three fourths of the way to reaching our target and making sure every child we work with gets a new toy this Christmas!

Thank you to each of you for your love and partnership in helping us reach Tijuana for Christ!

Matt Kooi
Director of Spectrum Ministries

"...and on this rock I will build my church, and the gate of hell will not overcome it." - Matthew 16:18