

Merry Christmas

from Spectrum Ministries

Team Effort

December 2019

As I looked around there were so many interactions that caught my eye. A small boy who was next in line to receive an icee. His lips were already blue which told me it wasn't his first trip through. The popcorn maker chugging away and the sweet smells of movie style popcorn filling the air. A group of adults gathered around listening as Juan (Spectrum staff) animatedly shared a portion of God's Word. I could see parked in the distance, our Spectrum truck filled with fresh vegetables from the market that day. Coming from the direction of our face painter, I saw miniature Batmans, Spidermans, and rainbow princesses walking about. Many had bags in hand filled with a prize they won, a banana and orange or two, and a new change of clothes we brought down for them. They were heading towards our carnival games with intentions to win as much candy as they could! Some were getting hair cuts to be ready for school on Monday. Girls had braided hair with beautiful bows, still a little damp from having it newly washed. This was our Spectrum neighborhood outreach.



Watching intently as they wait to play the game!



Girls waiting to get their hair done and a new set of clothes!

All of the energy and activity. All of the conversations, laughter and smiles. All the involvement that it took to pull this day off! I watched as our Spectrum staff talked with people, listening to recent stories, both good and bad that were affecting their lives. They were intent on listening and trying to encourage, give Biblical guidance, or identify ways we could help. The goal being to build relationships both with the folks we know and those who were new to the area. All played a role that day. Each had a hand in making it happen!



We always want to place a priority on having fresh vegetables for the families that come out

And then of course there was the unseen role you played! Your prayers are vital to see that these efforts go beyond the actual event and have an eternal impact. Also, the importance of lifting up in prayer our Spectrum staff and the tough challenges we face week in and week out working in these dark neighborhoods of Tijuana. Your gifts are so necessary and extremely appreciated! Von used to say, 'The Gospel is free. Unfortunately, ministry is not.' The way you invest in us financially enables us to be here to make days like this happen. Your contributions made it possible to put vegetables in the bags the women brought to take back to their home for their family. Your role is important! You are just as much a part of what goes on these days as any of us are!



Kids are so excited about their new toy! For many it's the only new toy they get at Christmas.



Christmas means toys for the kids and even the youngest receive a stuffed animal!

You say, 'Matt, what does this have to do with Christmas?' Christmas celebrates the beginning of the thirty-three years Jesus walked and was physically present with us here on earth. Talking with, sharing with, healing and helping the people throughout Israel. After His death and resurrection, we know He returned to heaven and gave us the Holy Spirit to move and work through the church; to be His presence in this fallen world. We are the body of Christ. To His children He gave the task to love people and share the good news regarding who He is and what He did for us. In a small way in our neighborhoods, we are humbled and privileged to be able to represent Jesus. Being present month after month in all the ways described above opens doors through trust and brings hope that they are indeed loved. In fact, **by the end of the day, two of the women**

had opened their hearts and gave their lives to Jesus! Through you and us, our Spectrum team from both sides of the border, Jesus is touching the lives of those without hope. That's what Christmas is about!

We are honored and grateful to you who partner with us in so many ways to bring the love of Jesus Christ to the communities we work in! We hold **seventy of these outreaches throughout the year**, along with all the other areas of ministry in which we work. Thanks for being in this with us! God bless you and Merry Christmas!

Matt Kooi
Spectrum Ministries Director

PS - Thanks for the great response on toys! Pray we finish the month well and every child in our neighborhoods is able to have a new toy on Christmas!



Face paint, icees and prizes are all things kids look forward to when we come!

"The Word became flesh made His dwelling among us. We have seen His glory, the glory of the one and only Son, who came from the Father full of grace and truth." - John 1:14

