

## Faces in the Crowd

August 2019

It takes time. And I'm thankful so many of you lovingly invest your resources and earnest prayers to partner with Spectrum and truly take part in the work. The problems that exist here in Tijuana are not fixed quickly or easily. But because you stand by us, one by one we see lives being changed for eternity!

It's easy to calculate how many backpacks we put in children's hands to help prepare them for school. Or the number of houses we build for families who don't have adequate shelter. We can even tell you how many pounds of crushed ice for strawberry slushies are consumed during our outreaches on a hot summer day! But gauging the work God is doing in a heart is impossible. Much of the results can't be seen or understood until much further down the road.

Recently I was looking at some pictures posted on Facebook of a special gathering for a church we partner with in one of our Tijuana neighborhoods. In the photos people were worshipping and listening to the teaching. They were eating good Mexican food and talking with each other. Adults and kids alike smiling, laughing and spending time with each other.



Some boys from the neighborhood. We've been asking Fidel (to my left) to come to church. Pray that he will!



Eugenia and two of her grand daughters enjoying some food after church

Then I noticed Eugenia and her grandkids. I know her! Eugenia has brought her family to our neighborhood outreaches for years. She was sitting at the table surrounded by people from the church! And there was eighty four year old Salud who has deemed herself my Mexican grandmother. She won't let me leave without cooking me a meal! And of course Vicente with the patch on his neck that covers the portal where he receives kidney dialysis which Spectrum is helping him. In all I counted thirteen people I could make out in the pictures who are from our Spectrum outreaches and are now part of the church!



Aracely brought her kids to Spectrum wash days when they were kids, and now brings her granddaughter (next to her) to church!



Vicente is truly a life that's been changed.

I can see a change in many of these people. They smile more. I can see it in their eyes. And I'm not the only one. Pastor Juan told me Eugenia's husband Luis, who is a hard man, has shown up at his church a few times now because he wants to know what's made such a difference in her life. Vicente who heard the Gospel about nine months ago at our outreach is now a regular attender. After years of drinking, he's put down the bottle and told me he's found a family there at the church. He goes in to the hospital weekly for his kidney dialysis, and in the waiting room often encourages people to thank God for the blessings He's given them. He tells whoever will listen about the things the Lord has done for Him!

How do faces in the crowd at our outreaches become faces in our churches? Our Spectrum staff works tirelessly to love, help and encourage the people we work with, sharing the Gospel in both word and in deed. You read newsletters just like this one, staying up to date with the ministry, praying, supporting and sometimes coming down to partner with us in the work. It takes a loving pastor like Juan to teach and shepherd his people in this poor neighborhood. But most of all, it's our wonderful God who lovingly and powerfully weaves all of this together to bring new life and hope to the people of our communities!

From all of us at Spectrum, thank you!

Matt Kooi  
Spectrum Ministries Director



Pastor Juan (who is also Spectrum staff) and his wife Cristina

*"He says, " Be still, and know that I am God; I will be exalted among the nations, I will be exalted in the earth."  
Psalm 46:10*