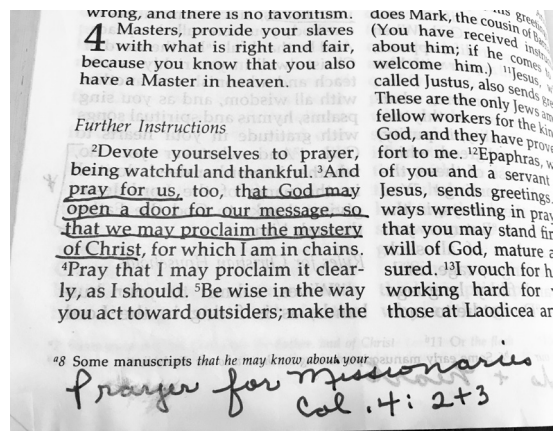


Making It Clear

January 2019

I received a late Christmas gift this year. On a quick, unscheduled trip back to Michigan this week my parents gave me a Bible. And not just any Bible. It was my Grandma's Bible! She passed away in 2004 at the age of ninety-seven. My grandma was a dear old saint who had walked with the Lord for almost ninety years, and the hand scribbled notes in the margins reflect a faithful, intimate relationship with her Savior.

When I returned home to Mexico, I opened it and wouldn't you know the first passage I read was Colossians 4. In it Paul asks for prayer to **make the mystery of Christ clear**. My Grandma had written underneath, "Prayer for Missionaries".



My Grandma's "Prayer for Missionaries"

I know my Grandma prayed for me often, but I'm sure when she wrote this note, she never envisioned those prayers applying to me and my family, and the ministry here at Spectrum!

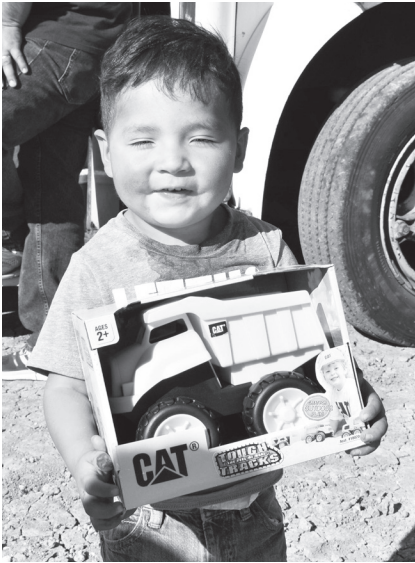
I want to say thank you to each of you as you pray and give for the work of making the mystery of Christ known here in Tijuana! Specifically I want to thank you for the efforts this Christmas season. It was extraordinary as we raised \$6,902 and provided gifts to **over one thousand-five hundred kids in our seven neighborhoods!** These are kids, many of whom only received the one new toy they chose from the bus. **These toys were made possible by your giving, and I'm so grateful!**

Why go to such great lengths for toys? Because it's a big deal for them to get on the bus, with the Christmas music and decorations, and choose a toy that's special to them. It's a tangible way to let them know we care about them and paints a clear picture of the gift God gave us in His Son Jesus. **It truly does help us make the mystery of Christ clear.**



Who knows?
Maybe a doctor in the making?

Here's how...

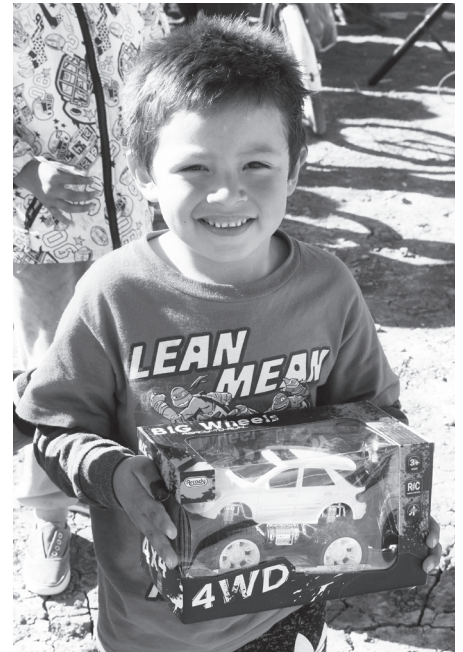


Ready to get to work with his new dump truck!

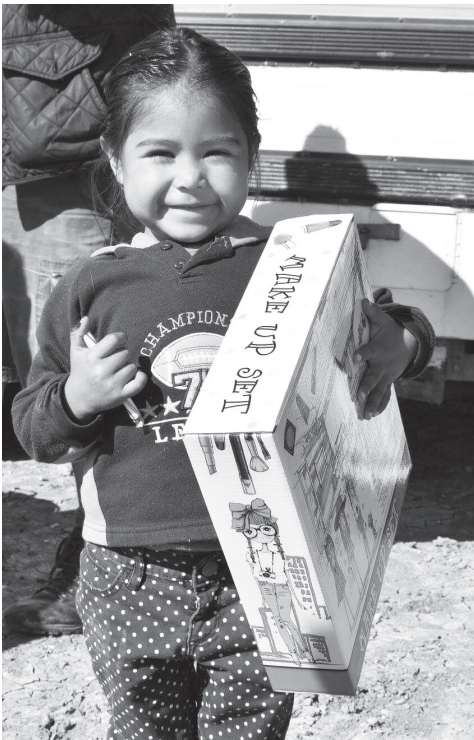
This Christmas, in each neighborhood, we were able to share about Christ using the gifts on the bus to illustrate. Holding one of the toys in my hand, I told the people gathered, the gifts were being offered whether the kids had behaved throughout the year or not. Some of the moms joked if it was based on behavior we would have saved a lot of money! I also told them that while the gifts were offered freely to the kids, they came at a cost to the ones who gave them. I went on to explain the Gospel is the same way. Forgiveness of sins and eternal life with Jesus is given to us not based on our merit. It's free to us but cost Jesus greatly through His payment on the cross. I then told them not every kid in Tijuana gets a gift. Only those who came to receive them and I shared John 1:12 which says, "...and to all those who received Him... He gave the right to become children of God."

God worked this Christmas as the people were open to hearing. In each neighborhood, people responded to the message.

Some for the first time, and some were already believers but were doubting their salvation. We were able to talk with them about that. In all forty seven people made some sort of spiritual decision! We talked with them and prayed with them. We also took their name and phone number to visit them and when possible connect them with a church in their area.



We're thankful every kid who came was able to receive a new toy this Christmas



Any one up for a make over?

Christmas is a time where Jesus coming to earth is emphasized and talked about. But why did He come? Many people don't have an answer to that. **Together with your gifts and prayers, we were able to explain why.** And today there are more people who live in our tough Tijuana neighborhoods who understand it more clearly!

From all of us at Spectrum we say thank you and look forward to what God has planned for all of us in this year to come!

Blessings!

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads 'Matt Kooi'. The signature is stylized and cursive.

Matt Kooi
Spectrum Ministries Director

"And pray for us, too, that God may open a door for our message, so that we may proclaim the mystery of Christ... Pray that I may proclaim it clearly, as I should." - Colossians 4:3a, 4