

## Finding the Right Road – Spectrum Camp 2019

May 2019

I can't even begin to tell you how good God was to us for camp this year! Our first coed camp ever was an absolute success, comprised of sixty-seven girls and eighty-nine boys totaling one hundred and fifty eight children! The weather was perfect for all of our outdoor games and activities, and thanks to so many of you the camp was fully funded. We truly couldn't have done it without you! Please take a moment if you're on Facebook to check out our camp video on our Spectrum Ministries Facebook page. It gives you a great sampling of what all our kids experienced!

On top of that, the message was spot on in pointing the kids to our Savior, Jesus, and I'd like to share with you one story of how that is making a difference...



Fidel waiting for the games to start.

Fidel is a twelve year old boy from one of our oldest neighborhoods, Grupo Mexico. It's a dangerous neighborhood and the young men from there often grow up to be fodder for the drug cartels. Fidel got connected to Spectrum through our boys soccer team last year and went to his first camp shortly after. Since then he's participated in our kids club and been a regular at our monthly Spectrum outreaches.



We were finally able to invite girls to camp, and they had an absolute blast!

Being twelve years old makes Fidel one of the older kids at camp, meaning he's often on the lookout for a potential tussle with another boy his age. Kids from Grupo like to fight, and after sizing up a large boy from an orphanage, Fidel found himself in a sit down conversation with Juan Toscano (Spectrum staff). Obviously we don't want any fighting at camp and one of the jobs Juan has is to talk through clashes between the kids and resolve them peacefully.



Our kids look forward to camp every year!

Juan asked Fidel if he was aware of all the recent drug related killings in his neighborhood, and Fidel responded that he knew many of the guys who had been shot. Juan was acquainted with them as well as Grupo is also where the church is that Juan pastors. Juan went on to ask what Fidel thought of the topics we had covered in our teaching earlier at camp. That morning we had been looking at the effects stealing, lying, bullying and drug use can have on a person's life. All of these are extremely relevant and something these boys and girls know all too well.

Through the conversation, Fidel began to connect the dots and see the role these vices played in so many of the lives that had been tragically taken. This opened the door for Juan to talk to Fidel about another way, the right way (or the camino correcto in

Spanish). Juan shared with Fidel the difference it makes when Jesus is the Lord of your life and how He will lead you on the right road!

We purposefully want to connect these kids with their local church, so in one of our camp sessions, we taught on how important attending church is in teaching us about God's ways. Fidel told Juan that on several occasions, he would come near the door of Juan's church on a Sunday morning and stand outside. He would look in, but then turn around and leave, thinking he didn't know anybody. But Juan told him there were other boys there his age – Ivan, Christian, Josue to name a few. He encouraged Fidel to come in and join them, to listen and to hear more about God who loves him so much!



Nothing like experiencing camp with a friend.



Paul (Spectrum Staff) leading worship.

God is so amazing in that He often turns conflicts like these into opportunities to open up and speak truth. This one blight on what was otherwise such an incredible camp might just be the thing that changes the trajectory of Fidel's life both now and for eternity. Please pray that we can follow up with Fidel and that he soon walks through the door of the church to hear more. Pray that God would continue to work in His heart and bring Fidel into a saving relationship with Himself.

Thank you to each of you who prayed for and gave to this year's camp. Fidel's story represents one of many lives you've touched. Your role was vital in making our 2019 camp one these kids will never forget!

From all of us at Spectrum,

Matt Kooi  
Spectrum Ministries Director

*"Commit your way to the Lord;  
Trust in Him, and He will act."  
Psalm 37:5*