

Overwhelmed by God's Grace

November 2019

Ten years ago Patty put a down payment on a small piece of land in Tijuana miles away from where she and her husband were then renting. Her hope was that someday they could save enough to build and make a home for their family. Things went well in the first two years as they saved enough for a concrete foundation. It was a great start and they were hopeful building would soon begin. However she became pregnant and had Jesus. Then came a sister for Jesus. Life was hard and with these new mouths to feed, saving for building materials kept getting pushed back.

Interestingly, the property they purchased was located directly across the street from where we hold our neighborhood outreaches in Ejido. But because her and her family didn't live on their property yet, we never had the opportunity to meet them. We saw the concrete foundation they had made, but time went by and no house was ever put on it.



Patty in the middle with Jesus on her left, along with her sister and family are so excited to be in their new house!



After ten long years sitting empty, construction finally began on their foundation.

Then a year and a half ago they received news no parent ever wants to hear. Little Jesus was struggling with severe headaches was diagnosed with brain cancer! Their entire savings along with assistance from family and friends would go to pay for chemo treatments and radiation. All their energy and prayers were devoted to help Jesus fight this battle for his life. A year and half of treatments left Jesus without hair or eye brows, and left the family drained and emotionally numb. Would the treatments work? Would Jesus beat the cancer?

Last summer Patty's sister told her about Spectrum, that we help people who need a home. She called us and we met with her and talked about her situation. The next available date to build was in September when a youth group from Northern California was coming in. We set the date and made the plans. She had waited so long and with everything that happened it was almost too much for her to

believe that her family would actually have a house on the property. The dream she and her husband envisioned ten years ago could soon be realized. But over the course of the struggle she had lost hope. She tried to be happy, but just wasn't ready to fully believe it would happen.

When the day came to build, she met us at the property. She had Jesus with her. She also brought with her amazing news. A week before, at Jesus' doctor's appointment, they heard the word they had been waiting so long to hear. "REMISSION." All the treatments had worked. The long journey was finally over. Jesus was cancer free!!



Putting together the walls



Working on the roof.

As the day went on and the house went up, we had many opportunities to talk with Patty. One of the leaders from the group spoke Spanish and shared with her and encouraged her for two hours that day! Patty expressed that she was overwhelmed by how much God had done for her little family. All the waiting. All the hoping. She admitted there were times she thought she would lose her son. But now with God's help he has a future again. And on top of that the family has a new house! Her situation had completely turned around in only a week's time and we all agreed that God deserves all the glory! I shared with Patty Ephesians 3:20 which says, "**Now to Him who is able to do immeasurably more than all we ask or imagine...**". Even in her most desperate prayers did she imagine a week like this!

We look forward to continuing our new relationship with Patty, Jesus and their family. They came across the street to our neighborhood outreach last week and we got to spend more time with them there. They also plan to attend our weekly Bible study an area pastor holds at our facility. Oh and of course Jesus and his little sister have already told us they're looking forward to Christmas when they come out to receive a new toy. I'm praying for that moment, that Jesus finds just the toy he's looking for!

Thank you for all you do to support the work God is doing here through Spectrum Ministries! From all of us down on this side of the border we wish you and your family a very happy Thanksgiving. We're thankful to God for each of you!

From all of us at Spectrum,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Matt Kooi".

Matt Kooi
Spectrum Ministries Director



Group from Golden Hills Community Church with Patty and Jesus in front of their new house.

"Now to Him who is able to do immeasurably more than all we ask or imagine..." - Ephesians 3:20