

## Coping With Coronavirus

April 2020



“We are a resilient people and we will get through this. When times get tough, we take care of our family members.” This is what the President of Mexico said in a recent press briefing while addressing his nation about the Coronavirus. I’ve already translated it from Spanish to English for you. But let me take it a step further and tell you what he’s really saying. ‘This is going to get really bad so you’ll need to be strong. And because we don’t have adequate facilities to help you, you’re going to have to care for each other in your own homes.’



To say Mexico is under prepared to handle a pandemic is beyond being an understatement! Currently there are 300 ICU beds and 120 ventilators in the Tijuana general hospital. Those will be dedicated to serve infected people from Tijuana, Tecate and Rosarito. That’s an area that has approximately four million people!

On top of that most of the people we work with in our neighborhoods don’t have the means to stock up on supplies. So as jobs are terminated and funds become scarce, food is going to be extremely tough to come by.

At the time of writing, Mexico has 1,378 confirmed cases and 37 deaths. The state of Baja has 43 cases and 3 deaths. Now with almost no tests available many don’t believe this comes close to reflecting real numbers. But the good news is that it’s still early on here and there’s time to adjust what we do as a ministry. And above all else, there’s time to pray. My prayer has been that God halts this virus in its tracks. As recent reports show, there are some drugs that are showing real promise to do that! For the places where the disease is ravaging, I pray that the vulnerable are protected. Just as a tornado can bypass a lone tree, may the virus go right around those who can’t fight it off or deal with it’s economic effects.



Thankful for each of these children who God loves so much!

Now let me share with you how Spectrum is continuing to reach people who are in need as COVID-19 is bearing down on our neighborhoods. Our main focus has become getting food to those who don't have it.

- Making deliveries of food and supplies to orphanages when needs arise.
- Delivering supplies to a senior citizen's home Spectrum supports.
- Bringing grocery bags of fresh vegetables and rice to the families in our communities. The kids also get a bag with a couple of oranges, bananas, and of course a little candy! Our staff spends Thursdays and every other Saturday making deliveries to those who would normally be at our outreaches that day. On average there are 130 bags of groceries and 100 bags of the fruit and candy for kids. We also deliver to those in need who call us.
- Helping people fill prescriptions or other medical needs.

I ask that you take a moment to go to our website [spectrumministries.org](http://spectrumministries.org) to see a video of one of our delivery days in action!

Above all else I see this as an opportunity to stand by our people in the midst of fear and uncertainty. We want them to know our hope is in Jesus who has already obtained the cure for something far worse than COVID-19. He offers the remedy for sin and eternal death! We can spread that! As has happened so often throughout history, it's when all seems lost that Christians spread hope. Let's pray that our hope in Jesus becomes contagious, outpacing the virus, and infects everyone we encounter!

Thank you for standing with us during these difficult times. We need your support now more than ever. Through your gifts and prayers you are helping us bring help and hope to those who need it!



Making home deliveries has been a great way to show people that God loves them and knows what they're going through!

From all of us at Spectrum,

Matt Kooi  
Director of Spectrum Ministries



This mom and son were thankful for the fresh vegetables.



Julian making deliveries to one of our orphanages.

*"God is our refuge and strength,  
an ever-present help in trouble." - Psalm 46:1*