

Worry or Worship?

May 2020



Efren at the Spectrum dorm separating bags of pasta for our grocery bags.

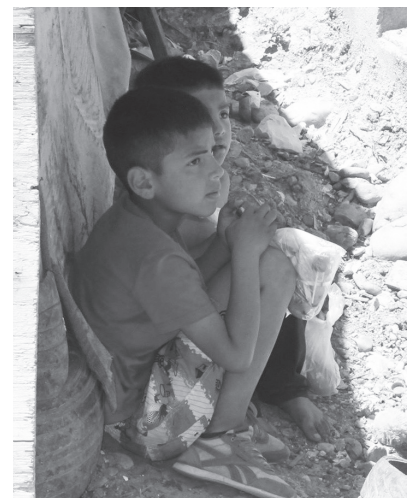
“Invasion” is a tough place to live. Invacion in Spanish, is an area where the poor invade a section of land that isn’t extremely usable and build homes and structures in which to live. This, in spite of the fact they don’t own the land creates a constant concern. It’s always in the back of one’s mind that at any time, the rightful owner of the land may come and legally throw everyone out if they decide to develop or sell. Mix in all the other challenges that go along with poverty and you can live with a constant background of fear and worry. No wonder drugs and alcohol run so rampant in places like this!

Recently we were driving through Invacion delivering bags of food door to door. Soon, we arrived at the house of a family we know. Jose Luis and his wife Rocio. Giving their lives to Christ about two years ago, they’ve been growing in their faith and attending the church we work with near their neighborhood. In fact before Covid, Rocio volunteered to serve at our outreaches each month. Along with a small team from her church, she would look for opportunities to talk

with, pray, and share Christ with the people who come to our Spectrum events. Her two sons, Ernesto and Jose Luis Jr. would participate as well. They dressed up as clowns and helped with our kids games!

When we approached their small house on the dirt road, she let us know not to get too close. Jose Luis Sr. had been sick. All last week he had a severe headache, sore throat, and couldn’t smell or taste anything. He hadn’t gone into the hospital or been tested because Tijuana is at its peak right now and is considered a hot spot in Mexico for the virus. The hospitals are short on both space and doctors and many people are afraid they’ll end up worse off once they’re inside!

Their family lives week to week when times are good. Right now there is no recourse for them when Jose Luis can’t work. His job at the lumber store, where he believes he contracted it, can’t afford to pay employees who aren’t there. And even though he’s starting to feel better, he needs to quarantine and won’t be able to start up again for at least another two weeks. Of course there are no prospects of a stimulus package here in Mexico, so with four kids, the obvious concern for food was beginning to grow.



Praying these bags of fruit and vegetables shine hope into the lives of those who receive them.

It's at this point that worry would begin to overtake many, but thankfully this family's faith has grown as well! Over the past two years they have seen God work mightily in their home. He's provided regular work for them. He saved their marriage. He's brought their family closer together as they served in the church. They are trusting that God will get them through this time as well. And our visit with groceries in hand just helped to confirm that in their minds! We set the groceries down for them to grab, maintaining the required distance. And through our masks, the pastor and I prayed for Jose Luis and the whole family from their driveway.

Please continue to lift up Jose Luis, Rocio, and their children, Ernesto, Jennifer, Jose Luis Jr., and Leslie in your prayers. May God provide for their needs and heal Jose Luis, while also protecting the rest of the family from getting sick. And pray for us as we continue to pack bags of groceries to take to those in need. Thanks to you and your regular gifts Spectrum is able to bring approximately 300 bags to families each week! There are many out there who don't have the faith Jose Luis and his family have. They're scared to death, wondering how their family is going to survive. Pray that our bags of groceries will provide a tangible relief that lets them know how much God values them and that they can turn to Him in their time of need!

From all of us at Spectrum,



Matt Kooi
Director of Spectrum Ministries



José Luis and his family outside their home in Invasión .



Packing bags of vegetables to go out!



The kids in our neighborhoods love receiving our bags of fresh oranges and bananas, with of course a few pieces of candy thrown in!



Thankful to be able to help families when they need it most!

" Look at the birds of the air; they do not sow or reap or store away in barns, and yet your heavenly Father feeds them. Are you not much more valuable than they?" - Matthew 6:26