



VBS in Pueblos Magicos

August 2022

“Thanks for coming! Our kids don’t get activities like these - no one comes out here.” A grateful mother smiled as she thanked us for our VBS program in the neighborhood of Pueblos Magicos in the far east of Tijuana. It is surprising to see the large clusters of homes hidden away in this isolated corner of the city. The homes are tiny and built close together. Over 30% of the population are squatting - living in homes without the proper paperwork. Poverty abounds. We coordinated with a local church for our first VBS in this neighborhood. Eighty kids attended the first day, and by day three 150 kids showed up. That is a lot of kids! At VBS

we mix games, songs, crafts, memory verses, and Bible stories as we share the gospel.

I love seeing so many things come together to make this week possible. The local church’s involvement, a group from Hawaii providing meals, another group helping promote the VBS a month before, and relationships with families developed through community outreach days where we care for needs in the community, and people praying for us from afar - all of this made VBS a success in Pueblos Magicos. Kids walked away with full tummies, newly-memorized scripture, fun crafts to take home, and having heard the gospel. A great week! We look forward to more opportunities to work alongside the church in this community. We do several VBS programs throughout the summer. May God continue to open doors!

Our school supply deliveries are in full swing. While the government provides much of the cost of schooling free of charge through the 9th grade, school supplies, transportation, and school uniforms must be provided by the families. These costs can keep kids out of school in poor communities, as families struggle to afford to send all their kids to school. Some are forced to choose which of their children will go. Others struggle to understand the value of education, and will not choose to invest what little they have in their children’s education. We regularly teach children why schooling is important, and reward them for good grades. Spectrum distributes school supplies to all of the children in the neighborhoods where we serve and we also support kids with help for uniforms, transportation, or other schooling needs on a case-by-case basis. Education is one of the keys to helping children break the cycle of poverty and your support makes our assistance in keeping kids in school possible. Thank you!



Parents were happy VBS came to town



Armando teaching in Kids Club

We know God works through His church, so it brings us joy that Spectrum Kids' Club has restarted in Grupo Mexico. The club meets in the local church building and several members of the local church help Armando run the club. We love helping kids come through the doors of a local church building! Please pray for Armando and his team as they teach the kids Scripture and how God's Word applies to their lives.

We are busy throughout the summer sharing God's hope and love with the poor in Tijuana. Praise God for the new homes built by the churches who serve with us throughout the summer, for the help poor families are receiving with

medical needs, for the children hearing the gospel through Club and VBS, for the retreat in the youth jail filled with young men who are so easily forgotten, and for the families blessed by much-needed food. May God's light shine bright!

Matthew 25:35-36 "For I was hungry and you gave me something to eat, I was thirsty and you gave me something to drink, I was a stranger and you invited me in, I needed clothes and you clothed me, I was sick and you looked after me, I was in prison and you came to visit me..."

For all of us at Spectrum Ministries,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Paul Alvarado".

Paul Alvarado
Spectrum Ministries Director



Handing out school supplies



Cemi Retreat

