

## Bicycles; A Good Vehicle For The Gospel

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Do you ever have those times when God just amazes you by something He does? We had that experience recently...

A youth pastor friend told me years ago that one of his goals was to make his youth ministry predictably unpredictable. What does that mean? There should be certain things students can count on; a specified time and place to meet, the Scriptures being taught, food being on hand! Whatever a youth pastor puts on this list, and there are many more ways to go with it, having components students know will be there provides a structure in which they can learn and invite their friends to. But at the same time, creatively thinking through how you do those things and even presenting surprises occasionally with special actions or events keeps things fresh, fun and is a great way to let them know you care!



Our first girl's bike winner!!

At Spectrum we want to provide a fun place where kids look forward to our outreaches. We want them to enjoy it so much, they even remind their moms as the day approaches when we will be in their neighborhood that month! We offer games where kids can win tickets to purchase treats or small prizes from our makeshift store. There is fresh popcorn made on the spot along with icees for the warm summer days and hot chocolate on the chilly ones. Our staff paints faces and helps kids with a coloring craft where they learn a Bible verse. We hold a mini kids club right in the middle of the event with singing, upfront games and a Bible lesson pointing kids to Jesus. All of these activities are elements kids can count on when they come on a Thursday or Saturday.

Last fall, Palau (Spectrum's Children's Director) and I were discussing what we could do as a special surprise for the kids. Our minds landed on something every child dreams of. We could raffle a new bike at each of our outreaches! The obvious obstacle to this plan is, new bikes are expensive. We could buy used ones from the local street markets but there's a cost to those as well that would need further consideration.



Despite the tough guy, stoic look for the picture, this young man was all smiles as he was seen riding his new bike around the rest of the activity!



Watching the popcorn get made!

That conversation took place on a Saturday. On Tuesday the following week my phone rang. On the other end was a pastor from a Spectrum supporting church in Michigan. He told me that he works with a ministry that contracts with retailers to take their overstock items and give them to churches to provide for people in need in their communities. The problem was that this ministry received a few pallets of new bikes with the caveat that they couldn't be given away domestically but had to go internationally. This ministry didn't have any connections like that so they were asking the pastor if he knew of anywhere they could go. Three days after our conversation about bikes, this pastor was asking me if I wanted three pallets of new bikes for Spectrum! What an amazing God we serve!

This unexpected move by God made me think how great His love is for each of us. He puts plans in place and even goes beyond to surprise us and let us know we are on His mind. He is faithful in His providence even when we can't see it. He inspires ideas and let's us take part in His dealings to show people who He is. He cares about the details of our lives and He deeply loves the kids and families we serve. He is predictable; the same yesterday, today and forever. Yet He's unpredictable. As the Scriptures say, "Who can know the mind of the Lord?" What an adventure it is to serve Him!

Thanks for helping Spectrum Ministries stay predictably unpredictable! Through your prayers and ongoing gifts we are able to engage with our communities in consistent ways that are both meaningful and personal. It opens the door for us to share about a God who showed His steadfast love in sending His innocent Son to do something no one saw coming - to die for the sins of the whole world!

From all of us at Spectrum Ministries,

  
Matt Kooi  
Director of Spectrum Ministries



Very intent on doing her best on this coloring craft at our outreach!



This little guy saved his tickets from playing the games and made quite a haul when he redeemed them at our Spectrum "store".



Kids love the face paint station at our outreaches!

*"You see, at just the right time, when we were still powerless, Christ died for the ungodly." - Romans 5:6*