

Sharing Hope

July 2022



Lily listening to needs.

“Lupita” was a young mother with three kids, and she felt hopeless. Life has always been hard growing up in one of the tougher neighborhoods where we serve. She ran off with the father of her first child when she was 16. He was sent to prison after he killed a man. The father of her second and third children fell ill last year. He had a tumor in his head and struggled with drug addiction. His illness kept him from working and her illiteracy made it difficult for her to find work while he recovered. She also struggled with a painful hernia that she had no money to treat. The pain was getting worse. She started asking neighbors for money to buy food.

The father passed away last December. That was Lupita’s breaking point. Hopelessness and despair took over. She tried to take her own life in January. We have known Lupita since she was a young child. Sometimes the kids we know get swept up into currents that pull at their lives and often take them down dark, rough paths. We lose track of them when they move away. But sometimes, years later, in a moment of need, our paths may cross again.

Lily reached out to Lupita and offered support and encouragement. They talked about the Bible and a church she had gone to in her youth. She had enjoyed going there, yet there was so much she still did not understand! Lily told Lupita that Spectrum would be able to take care of the costs for treating her hernia. Lupita started to get her life back together. Hope is a powerful thing! Even a small help at the right time may rekindle the flame. Lupita is pressing on. Having her medical needs met opens the possibility of returning to the factory job she found nearby. Pray for her as she faces the challenges that remain. Pray that we continue to have opportunities to minister to her family and share the gospel.

We have known Michelle’s family for many years as they have consistently attended our community outreach in Laguna. But now as a young mother she looked very frail. Her father had been struggling with tuberculosis and he had passed it onto her, her young son, and two more of his grandchildren. Her thin, stick-like arms showed just how hard the disease was on her body. The Mexican government was willing to give medication for tuberculosis free of charge, but many costly medical tests needed to be done for the whole family first. Spectrum covered the costs of the exams and the family is on the mend. They will still be taking medication for some time, and we will be around to cover unexpected costs that may arise.



Michelle and her son are on the mend.



Pilar sharing the gospel.

“Someone from prison said hi,” I was told by Alex, a handyman who helps Spectrum here and there. He was returning from a trip with his church to the local prison. I knew exactly who he was talking about. It had to be one of the two young men I worked with extensively over the years who had recently been locked up, accused of shooting a young boy across town. I received a call at 1 a.m. from another friend the day the news broke. One of the youth had always worn a necklace with a little metal AK47 on it. The idea of working for the drug gangs is a temptation for young men growing up on the streets of Tijuana. Are they guilty? Maybe. Innocent? Possibly. But now an opportunity opens up to

go to the adult prison, which is not a nice place, and see these young men in this tough time. Again, years later, in a moment of need, our paths cross again. Pray for these young men. We know God can step in and transform lives in a mighty way.

My prayer for the communities where we serve is Ephesians 1:18: “I pray that the eyes of your heart may be enlightened in order that you may know the hope to which He has called you.” The gospel brings us hope. Deep, undying, powerful hope. This is why we preach about Jesus. This is why we reach out in love to the lost-that they all may know the great hope we have in Christ! Thanks for standing by us as we serve.

For all of us at Spectrum Ministries,

Paul Alvarado
Children’s Ministry and Programs



Kids gather for songs, games, and bible lessons on our service days



“But God will never forget the needy; the hope of the afflicted will never perish.” - Psalms 9:18