

A girl named “María”

June 2022



Food is a lot of the kids favorite part.

Camp was a success! We had a military boot camp theme and the kids took on the role of soldiers in training. We went all out. Activities included archery, BB guns, zip lines, swimming pool, water games, night games, tie-dye T-shirt crafts, songs, roasted marshmallows and so much more! The kids came from the neighborhoods we serve, orphanages and some local churches. It was quite a group of rag-tag 8-12 year-olds! When you look up close you understand why we cherish the opportunity camp provides. Let me share the story of one of the little girls who attended this year. She’s eight years old, and we will call her “María”.

María’s mother had recently fallen back into drug addiction, and apparently into prostitution as well. Prostitution is one of the few options for addicts to acquire money, but it brings devastating consequences and puts children in the household at risk of human trafficking. Many times the children are “rented out” once they reach adolescence. Oddly, María has some form of protection from her father. He is serving a life sentence in prison and has become a hitman for crime gangs behind bars. He keeps María’s mom in line with threats that he will have her killed if something happens to his daughter. They are not empty threats, but María’s unconventional protection is far from “safe”.

A staff member went to see María’s mom a few days before camp. She was high on drugs as our staff member pleaded with her, “Remember to send María to camp! Don’t forget!” Mom nodded in her drugged-up state - not a good sign.

Staff made another visit the day before camp. Mom was sober! “Remember to wake up on time so they can pick up María, don’t forget! Don’t sleep in! Remember!” The sad thing is that when you work nights you don’t get up early.



We treasure the teaching times.

But God was at work! The day of camp María’s grandmother called one of our staff members at 4:00 a.m. “When are they picking the kids up for camp? I want my nietos [grandchildren] to go.” Praise God for grandma! Pick up time was around 9:00 a.m. María was ready to go, along with some of her cousins and other kids from the troubled neighborhood.



At camp, we share the gospel through skits, object lessons and one-on-one talks with kids like María and others. There are many others. Diego, Jorge, Carmen and so many more. 120 children attended camp! I love just taking a moment and letting that number sink in. 120! Our kids come from extremely tough situations. María got to spend time with her counselor at camp, and draw close to a Christian lady from her neighborhood who takes several of the kids with her to the church at the top of the hill throughout the year. Please pray for

María and the other kids. Pray for the staff who will continue to minister throughout the year. The Bible says that Jesus came to “seek and save” the lost. We know that when God is the one seeking them, there is hope even in the toughest cases! Thanks for your prayers and support!

For all of us at Spectrum Ministries,

Paul Alvarado
Children’s Ministry and Programs



Competition time!



Sharing the gospel in fun ways.

“For the Son of Man came to seek and save those who are lost.” - Luke 19:10