

Open Doors and Christmas

November 2022



Greeting the children

In a Tijuana twist on Santa and his sleigh, I remember showing up during the night to a poor home with a small team and a bag full of gifts. We were breaking our own rules that night and risking a show of favoritism as we took gifts and delivered them directly to a family. They lived in a really bad neighborhood and were struggling to get by, with a father addicted to drugs and six children to feed. I stayed with the vehicle as the rest of our team snuck the gifts and some blankets and food to the home. Slowly tough tattoo-covered neighborhood thugs started coming out of the dark and asking me if we had brought something for them. I was getting nervous until one of the young thugs said, “Hey, you are the guy who comes and brings food!” The tense situation changed in an instant. I was welcome in this dark alley. Praise God for friends in low places! We delivered a

little bit of Christmas joy to a very needy family that night thanks to the doors God opened.

We have open doors in this city. With Christmas right around the corner, we are preparing to bring gifts to over 1,800 children. We go to the poor, the lost, and the forgotten. For many of the children, the gift they receive from Spectrum will be their only Christmas gift this year. There is a boy in the neighborhood of Ejido Lazaro Cardenas who keeps the gifts he has received from Spectrum on a special shelf. When a wheel broke off his toy, he diligently fixed it and placed it back on the shelf. When you have little, you treasure what you have.

A few months ago we added a neighborhood close to the new Tijuana dump to our monthly rotation. The concentration of poverty in the community has led to large turnouts with more than twice the number of people attending our community outreach days there. We plan to bring gifts to this community for the first time this Christmas. This is a very exciting task, but one we cannot do without your help. We plan to bring gifts to a total of seven neighborhoods this year. There are many ways you can be a part of this! Financial gifts allow us to purchase toys in bulk. Physical gifts are also a great way for churches or communities to be involved with giving. You can even schedule a trip with us during the month of December and help us bring gifts and food to the communities in person. Your continued faithful support allows us to keep meeting



Having fun hearing the gospel



Grateful smiles

many needs of the poor, and additional gifts this season allow us to bring some extra joy. Would you help us bring this joy by giving a special gift this month for toys for the children? The enclosed insert explains how. We thank you for remembering the poor with us in Tijuana this Christmas.

Years ago, Pastor Von and I were looking at the city from a hill when he told me, "The need is overwhelming; we cannot help them all. But that is no reason to not help a few." We will continue to minister throughout this season reaching the needs of as many as we can. Programs in Kids Club, the youth jail, food distribution, individual medical help, building homes, and responding to other needs will continue. We will be purchasing tarps for leaky roofs and blankets for poor families as the winter cold and rain approaches. Thank you

for partnering with us and going above and beyond! Thank you for praying for us as we take the gospel to Tijuana.

1 Corinthians 9:15 "Thank God for this gift too wonderful for words!"

Paul Alvarado
Spectrum Ministries Director



Sharing some christmas joy

We see large crowds out east

