

## Chain-Wielding Hoodlums

August 2023



Chambas on the left next to Lily's husband Alex

I remember getting the report at camp. The children from Laguna were going to get into a fight with the children from Bola. "They have sticks and chains," we were told. "It's Chambas and the kids from Las Cruces." We knew who Chambas was. The section of Laguna known as Las Cruces was a particularly unruly section of the tough Laguna neighborhood and it had more than its fair share of seriously trouble-prone kids. Chambas was the leader of the pack. We hurried over to the scene of the confrontation. The small uprising was still in a name-calling phase when we arrived, which wasn't much of a surprise considering the mouths these kids have on them. Chambas and the Las Cruces crew always kept us busy!

It gave me great joy when Chambas, now a young man, came by to visit our outreach in Las Cruces last month. It has been some time since that incident at camp. Over the years, the time we have spent taking kids like Chambas to camp, kids' club, and other special activities allows us to form relationships. We see some kids come to Christ, and we see God transform their lives. But many others follow the wide road that in time will lead to destruction. Still the relationships we have with them persist. Some turn to us years later in a time of need. Some will seek out God in the long run. Others stick to that destructive road. We cherish visits from the youth that we served when they were young. It gives us an opportunity to point them to Christ once again or pray with them. We know God works through prayer. Let's pray for Chambas, that he may turn to Christ.

We had another visit in Las Cruces. Reina is a young teenage girl who has faced many challenges in her life. We are happy to see her mom get off drugs and help others who struggle with addiction. Reina is plugged into a church now and is doing well. Her smile brings us joy. This is the grace of God in her life. I remember years ago when she was a child and would pretend to cry around strangers in an attempt to get a hug. How hard does life at home need to be for a child to learn that behavior? Throughout the years we took each opportunity to share God's love and affection. Now we can rejoice with you in the work God is doing in her life. Let's pray for Reina, her mom, her sister, and her two brothers. Las Cruces is a challenging place to call home.



Reina was all smiles



800 children received school supplies this month

We originally set out to give 600 school supply packets in our communities, but after seeing how many kids signed up from our neighborhoods we increased the number to 800 packets. That is a lot of kids! It has been a joy to support the education of the children who attend our outreaches. We saw a lot of happy students! Your support makes what we do possible, including adding 200 children to our school supply outreach. From all of our happy young students, thank you!

Summer is a busy time of ministry. We are grateful for the groups who have come to serve alongside us. Summer ministry here involves a lot of new homes, fun activities for the orphanages, support for the seniors' home, gospel-infused VBS programs, and more. Thanks for being a part of all we do! Through your presence, support, or faithful prayer (or all of those!) - we know you stand by us. Thank you!



For all of us at Spectrum Ministries-

Paul Alvarado  
Director

*3 John 1:4 "I could have no greater joy than to hear that my children are following the truth."*



Food is a blessing

