

God's Light Shines!

June 2023



Team competitions are a lot of fun

the difficulties of living in a hard and poor place like Tijuana. Camp is something they look forward to all year. We are happy to say it was a great weekend!

This year we memorized John 1:4-5 which says, "The Word gave life to everything that was created, and his life brought light to everyone. The light shines in the darkness, and the darkness can never extinguish it." For kids who know the darkness of poverty, crime, and violence, it is great to show them that no matter how dense the darkness, it cannot extinguish the light we find in Jesus. Jesus is greater than the darkness. His love is greater than our sin. He brings us hope, even when things may seem hopeless. The kids soak it in. Over 50 kids learned the memory verses during the weekend. It may have helped that we promised to reward the kids with the chance to throw Julian or me in the pond at night if enough of them learned their verses. Both Julian and I ended up getting tossed in. It was a small price to help encourage the kids to learn scripture. For many of them, this was their first memory verse. God's word is a mighty thing, and it does not come back empty. It holds the power of the gospel, and presenting the gospel is what makes camp worth it.



Sharing the good news at camp

Camp was a joy. We had great food, fun games, songs, Bible stories, and a lot of happy campers! The children enjoyed eating hamburgers and ice cream, flying kites, shooting BB guns, throwing axes, riding the camp zip line, swimming, and much more. We cherish the opportunity camp gives us to bless the kids with an amazing experience and grow our relationships with them. Our campers are tough inner city kids who are very familiar with

the streets and



Kids love the camp meals!

Ten children came from the little community that we call "Tent City" which sits next to the dump. When we talked to them about learning their verses, some of the girls hesitated and explained that they



couldn't read. A few of our staff came up with a neat little tune and turned the verse into a song. With that assistance, they learned it quickly! I imagine what life is for these girls, growing up in Tent City. How will the lack of schooling affect their lives? How do you make it in life without the ability to read? How do you dodge the drugs and worse that have so many trapped in the poor conditions of living on the outskirts of the dump? We know that God can bring about powerful change. We share the gospel and pray, we show the kids God's love, and we point them to Jesus because he is the light of the world. Please join us in praying for the kids who joined us at camp.

Thanks to your generous donations to our general fund, we help individual families get through tough times each time we visit a neighborhood. The last few weeks that meant helping a 12-year-old boy get an emergency operation to remove his appendix, helping a lady from Trinche pay for some urgent medical tests and treatment, and helping a girl who was getting out of youth prison after three years start a new life at

a Christian training school for struggling girls. Our broad relationships with the families and the youth allow us to step in at critical times and help. Even 20 dollars makes an oversized impact when it is what you need to be able to afford medicine for your kids. I think that something that makes Spectrum special is its ability to connect help with needs in a timely manner. Recently a boy was being released from youth prison. He was going to take a bus trip to southern Mexico and he asked us for a change of clothes. Such a simple request, allowing for a little dignity as he made his way south. The boy only had Spectrum to turn to, so we picked up some clothes, brought them to him and saw him off. It was such a small help, but such a large opportunity to show this young troubled man God's love, and that he was not alone. We cherish these opportunities.

Thanks for your prayers and support!

For all of us at Spectrum Ministries,

Paul Alvarado,
Director



Meeting needs at our community outreach



Matthew 25:36 "I was naked, and you gave me clothing. I was sick, and you cared for me. I was in prison, and you visited me..."