

The Best Memories

May 2023



Teaching verses at VBS

We headed out to eastern Tijuana for VBS during spring break. It was a blast! We brought fun games, songs, and crafts mixed in with a good portion of the gospel. A church from Northern California and the local community church helped out with the activities. The children memorized John 14:6 - "I am the way, the truth, and the life." We point the crowds to Jesus and the hope we find in Him. It was a great week!

During VBS I was approached by a lady who had her kids by her side and was overflowing with enthusiastic joy. She said, "You don't remember me, but I know you!" She told me how she had gone to a Spectrum VBS twenty years ago in the neighborhood we called "Invasión." She had been recording the songs and VBS games on her phone to share with her brothers who had also been to our programs when they were young. She smiled and said, "You guys were the best memories of our childhood." Wow. Those words stuck with me.



She was happy to see us after 20 years

A lot of what we do is simple. Songs, games, snowcones, and popcorn. A bag of food. A little medicine. We share the gospel and bring fun activities for kids. We help the hurting. In God's hands we see these small things having an oversized impact. When you are in a tough spot, getting the help you need at just the right time is a huge encouragement. We do not underestimate simple acts of kindness done in love.



We saw a large turn out for VBS!

I remind our staff that while our next community outreach could seem like just another day to us, many of the children who attend wait all month long for the day Spectrum comes to town. We hear the kids ask us about camp all year long. They look forward to these days. And for many of them it is indeed the best day of their month, the best weekend of their year, or maybe even the best memories of their childhood. It is not hard to imagine this to be true when you get up close and see

the challenges that the poor of the communities face. But there is hope! Jesus is the way, the truth and the life. We find hope in him, freedom, and joy. What a wonderful privilege it is to point people to Christ!

We are trying out a new location for our outreach in the community of Laguna. We are setting up in a little old park that is a lot closer to the families who attend our outreach. Our first day there coincided with Mexico's Day of the Child holiday so we celebrated with piñatas for the kids. I'm not sure who came up with the idea of giving a kid a stick, blindfolding him and asking him to swing away at a piñata while other children dive for candy at his feet, but for whatever reason, piñatas make the day a party here in Tijuana. We had a great first day outreach in this new location. Praise God!

May is our camp month. We should be finishing up camp around the time this letter gets out. Pray that the word of God that the kids received at this year's camp may sink in. Pray that God may use the camp to open new opportunities for us to minister in the kids lives. Pray for their families as they come home. We are excited to see the fruit that God brings from His word. We have been very encouraged with all your support!



Piñatas are a lot of fun

For all of us at Spectrum Ministries,

Paul Alvarado
Director

Deuteronomy 15:11 "For there will never cease to be poor in the land. Therefore I command you, 'You shall open wide your hand to your brother, to the needy and to the poor, in your land.'"



A lot of people showed up to our new location in Laguna

