

Just in Time for Christmas

November 2023



Christmas is a joyful time

Christmas is coming! Just thinking about it makes me remember a special delivery we made last December. We brought some food and Christmas gifts to a family who had recently lost their home and most of their possessions to a fire. We had rebuilt their home with the help of a US group, but we knew the family was still struggling. Seeing the kids & faces light up as they received their gifts filled our hearts. There is something special about a Christmas gift! Even in the toughest situations it seems to have the power to bring hope and smiles. We love Christmas and the opportunities it brings to share God's love with the poor.

We gave over 2000 gifts last Christmas. That is a lot of happy kids! For many of these kids, the gift they get from us is their only Christmas gift. That motivates us to try to bless as many kids as we can. But the gifts are just a part of the work we have ahead of us.

The winter brings cold and rain to the neighborhoods of Tijuana. Forecasts are pointing to heavy rains this year. Many homes are not prepared for the winter weather. Tarps and blankets become some of the most requested items in our communities. We plan to distribute as many as we can get our hands on. A tarp and a blanket might not seem like much, but a tarp can help keep the rain out, and the house dry. Add a blanket and you achieve something simple but wonderful.

Warmth. Don't underestimate warmth. The cold gets bitter in the makeshift little shacks that so many in our neighborhoods call home. Just getting a family a little warmer in the winter is a great way to share God's love with them. May we be a blessing to the poor this year!



We love sharing food with hungry kids



Tarps and blankets help protect the poor

We will also be taking Christmas to the dump and to the youth jail. We will go to the seniors' home and bless the families of the workers at orphanages, youth rehabs, local churches, and even the youth jail guards and office workers. We want to remember the people who work alongside us and bless and encourage them this Christmas. We will reach out to individual families facing tough situations who may miss out on our regular distributions. We will be busy and it will be good! I love the Christmas season. It is full of opportunities.

Even as we make fun preparations to bring an awesome Christmas to the kids we serve, we will be meeting individual family needs. As we go into the hard neighborhoods, we come alongside families who are suffering. We help as many and as much as we can. Last week it was a 15-year-old gal who was abused and left pregnant. The family is poor, and are managing the best they can. They went to the authorities, and are now just trying to move on, but the upcoming costs of a C-section are well out of reach. I know we cannot change what happened, but we can help see this family through this dark time. Jesus is light and hope, even in the darkest of places, and we will take His light there.

What we do is made possible through your support. Thank you for your generosity! We invite you to help us reach kids with gifts, food, tarps, and blankets. If you would like to donate it is easy to do at spectrumministries.org, or get in touch with us at info@spectrumministries.org.

For all of us at Spectrum Ministries,



Paul Alvarado
Director

**P.S. You can drop me a line at
paul@spectrumministries.org**

Luke 2:10-11 "Fear not, for behold, I bring you good news of great joy that will be for all the people. For unto you is born this day in the city of David a Savior, who is Christ the Lord."



We serve a lot of kids!

