

## Loving the Lost

October 2023



Jesus is the way, the truth and the life

The boy seemed a little off when he showed up to the neighborhood gathering that day where Julian was helping out a local ministry. The child started to curse at the people who had come to serve and bring food that day. Soon it became clear the kid was high on some street drug and not in his right mind. Just a child. It seems crazy to us, but for the kid, that was just a regular weekend. Drugs flow on the streets, and it is easy to become ensnared. In some of the worse situations drugs flow in the homes, and kids can start using at a very young age. He was so young! Where would his life take him? What future was in store for him? No easy answers. I could tell this weighed heavily on Julian.

It is tough to love the lost. Helping a kid in that situation is hard. There are no guarantees of a happy ending. Many of the kids we are working with are living in dire circumstances. Their futures don't look bright. But the outlook can change when you factor God into the equation. Julian told me about a young girl from an orphanage where he served several years ago. He spent his time investing in the youth there and giving them opportunities to serve others. It was a tough youth group made up of Tijuana orphans. The hard truth is that many of the kids struggled once they moved on from the orphanage. But recently we heard of this young missionary who used to live in a Tijuana orphanage and who is now serving God. It turns out she was one of Julian's youth. God is great!

I think God gives us grace from time to time to see just how radically he can turn a situation around. It allows us to look at a young drugged-up boy on the street in Tijuana and not give in to despair but rather reach out with hope. It allows us to preach in the youth jail with joyful expectation of the fruit God may bring. We go into the barrios of Tijuana with more than just food and much needed assistance - we bring God's mighty word! It makes us eager to find opportunities to serve. It is exciting to think about what God has in store for this season of ministry!



Christmas is just a few months away, and that means we will be busy with preparations. We gave out over 2000 toys last year in our communities. Soon we will start some of the shopping, and start planning the logistics of crossing the border with so many gifts. Christmas is a great opportunity to share God's love with kids who are struggling. We are also planning to purchase hundreds of blankets and tarps. The rainy season is not far away and Tijuana can get cold, especially when your home is drafty and has no insulation. A blanket is a big deal when you need one in the cold. I always picture this family I visited who had six kids and the entire family sharing one big bed. I love the idea of getting a nice blanket that can cover them all!

It is easy to be a part of what we do here at Spectrum. You can donate online, or through the mail, or reach out to us at [info@spectrumministries.org](mailto:info@spectrumministries.org). We are grateful for your support. It makes what we do possible.

We appreciate your prayers! God works through prayer. Let's pray for that boy who was struggling with drugs. Let us pray for, and love the lost.

For all of us at Spectrum Ministries



Paul Alvarado  
Director



We are looking forward to Christmas

*Ephesians 5:1-2: "Therefore be imitators of God, as beloved children. And walk in love, as Christ loved us and gave himself up for us, a fragrant offering and sacrifice to God."*

