

Much to Do

April 2024



VBS at Granjas

What do we do as we prepare for our May children's camp? We keep busy with ministry! There has been a lot going on. Spring break allowed us to take Vacation Bible School (VBS) to the neighborhood of Granjas. A lot of kids showed up! We had songs, crafts, games, bible stories, memory verses and hot dogs. It was a great time of ministry. We were excited that the local community church hosted the VBS. We started each day with games outside in a big empty dirt lot, and then walked across the street to the church building. I smiled as I watched the kids pour on in.

I know that for many of the kids, this was the first time they had entered a church building. Connecting kids to local churches and their staff brings us great joy. We even saw some parents staying around for the evening service after VBS! We work in tough neighborhoods, and we are glad to serve a powerful God who is greater than the challenges these families face. May they all come to know him!

"The lucky ones are in jail." I remember when a lady from one of our neighborhoods told me this. We had been talking about how many of the youth in that community had been gunned down. The streets can be unforgiving. But we strive to take God's light to the dark corners of the city. This is why we work in CEMI youth jail. God continues to open doors there. Most of the youth are facing serious charges. This is a group that society could easily overlook. Many of them are broken down, repeat offenders. To others, their future may not look bright. They are street rats, and lost causes. But we know the gospel. God is mighty to save. The things God can do with the lives of those who turn to Him! Carlos tells me of the latest youth who is considering his options as he gets out of jail. For most of these young men, going back to their neighborhoods would land them back in jail quickly. Carlos points the boys to Jesus and is setting up a place for the young man to stay at the Christian youth rehab we support. These young men's lives





Luz and Maria came by to say thanks

hang in the balance. We cannot choose for them, but we can pray. Please pray for Carlos and Robin as they minister in Tijuana's youth jail.

I got a visit from a family we are helping in Pipila. María is facing cancer and radiation treatments and has few resources. Her family was making preparations for her daughter Luz's big 15th birthday celebration when she was diagnosed with cancer. In Mexico, it is customary for girls to have a special party for their 15th birthday, with a fancy dress and a meal with family and friends. Many girls look forward to these celebrations for years. But cancer canceled those plans. I talked to Lily about the details of how Spectrum would help this family put food on the table while the father took time off work to

help mom fight cancer and go back and forth to Mexicali for treatments, a city more than 3 hours away. We are happy to help the family during this hard season, but we wanted to do more. Could we help get the 15th birthday celebration back on track? Lily reached out to the family, and I am happy to say that Luz celebrated her 15th birthday in grand traditional fashion. Spectrum Ministries along with Maria's friends and family all pitched in. When days get dark, it is nice to have a little bit of sunshine get through! María and Luz came by our outreach to express their thanks for all the support. We will continue to help their family as María receives radiation treatments these next few months. She is a Christian sister, and her faith is helping her face this tough road ahead.

We continue to prepare for our May camp. We are excited to have an organization who will be matching gifts up to an amount that is beyond what our usual camp budget is. If we raise the same amount that we have raised in years prior, we will be able to run our camp, add an extra meal and several new activities, rent transportation to move the kids, and possibly take camp to one of our neighborhoods in July. If you would like to support our camp ministry this year you can go to spectrumministries.org and donate online, or send gifts to our PO box. You can add a note letting us know it is for camp!

Thank you for your support and prayers! We are keeping busy serving here in Tijuana. God bless!

From all of us at Spectrum Ministries,

Paul Alvarado
Director

Galatians 6:9

And let us not grow weary of doing good, for in due season we will reap, if we do not give up.

