

Merry Christmas

from Spectrum Ministries

What If?

December 2020



Houses continue to be built thanks to generous churches and individuals giving to help families with a new home!

Back in March no one knew what to expect with this virus. The question was raised in the face of lockdowns and projected deaths in the millions, should we at Spectrum shut things down until this pandemic blows over? Even at the time, it was only a fleeting thought. After a few days of prayer and discussion, we quickly resolved to stay, make adjustments where possible to account for safety, and continue to serve. How could we close up when people need us the most?

Do you know who else didn't go away in March? You. In spite of a drastic dip in the economy and ample prayer worthy issues at home in the US, giving and prayers for Spectrum never faltered. You stayed engaged and stood with us in our calling to walk with those who need us here in Tijuana. In so doing, your faithfulness allowed us to express God's faithfulness to people who often had nowhere else to turn.

I sometimes think about what was on the line for people in need and the situations where God has allowed us to help over this past year. What if we had decided differently?

Abraham, Maria and their four young children who recently lost their house to a fire were able to call us the day after the catastrophe. What if Spectrum had closed down? But instead, because of one supporter's gift we were able to build a new home for their family the very next week! In fact throughout Covid, **we were able to build fourteen houses** for people with insufficient housing.

The shut down hit many families here in Tijuana extremely hard. The



A main concern for parents this year was to have enough food for their family. Spectrum's grocery bags were a timely blessing.



Doing school online without the means for adequate internet options is one of many challenges children have had to face this year.

combination punch of layoffs and no stimulus money forced some families to ration themselves to one meal a day. We decided to focus on food and were able to continue to bring meals and groceries to our neighborhoods! Since March, we've kept up our door to door deliveries, never missing a week, and delivered an estimated eleven thousand, six hundred bags of groceries. One mom wrote to us and said, **"I thank you very much! The groceries arrived at just the right moment. I thank God for this blessing!"**

I think of **orphanages** and the **senior's home**, who were regularly stocked with food and supplies. The inmates in the **teen jail** who weekly received an encouraging note with Scripture. Five year old Genaro, who suffers from seizures as well as **others with medical conditions** who were helped. Even several families with Covid!

God has allowed us opportunities to bring **joy to kids** when school and normal life has been shut down for so long. As part of a competition, we had one hundred and thirty kids memorize James 4:8, "Come near to God and He will come near to you." It was a great way to minister to children

when our regular means of doing so (camp and kids club) were impossible to hold! And of course all through December we will give Christmas toys to these children who've had such a hard year. Our goal is one thousand, eight hundred toys and if you'd still like to give, it's not too late!

It's been a challenging year for sure. But what's stayed the same is God's faithful love and salvation, Spectrum's serving presence in Tijuana, and your empowering and enduring partnership to reach the poor with the love of Jesus Christ. Thank you!

From all of us at Spectrum, we wish you and your family a very Merry Christmas and Happy New Year!

Matt Kooi
Director of Spectrum Ministries



This little girl was so happy with the stuffed animal we gave her earlier this year. I can't wait for her to pick out her toy on the Christmas bus this month!



So thankful for the food and supplies for our senior home as well as the orphanages!

PS - Just a reminder about year end gifts. In trying to reach our 2020 budget, your donations are much needed and very appreciated! All donations postmarked by December 31st will be included in your 2020 giving statement.

"Even though I walk through the valley of the shadow of death, I will fear no evil, for you are with me..." - Psalm 23:4