

## A Christmas Full of Blessings

December 2021



The kids can't wait to see what toys await them on the bus this year!

Grateful is the best word I can come up with to describe how I feel. The Christmas "Cool Bus" will be rolling into each of our seven different Tijuana neighborhoods throughout the month of December. Thanks to so many of you, it will be decorated and full of toys for each child to choose from! In the end we estimate approximately fifteen hundred children will have a **new toy**. For some, that will be the one gift they receive this year, lending added significance to an already great opportunity to bless these kids and show how much God cares for them!

While our energies are focused on the kids, there are some other Spectrum undertakings during the Christmas season you may not be aware of...

On December 20th our Spectrum staff will have an opportunity to spend an afternoon at a local Tijuana **senior's home** we've been working with for the last several years. Why is that noteworthy? Because throughout Covid, in order to protect the twenty plus residents from the effects of the virus, they've been closed to any visitors. To comply, Julian and Arturo have simply helped out by monthly stopping by with a truck full of food and supplies, but we've been unable to go in and visit. That's a long time! So the director has invited our Spectrum staff to come in and host a Christmas party. We plan to spruce the place up by hanging lights and bringing a Christmas tree to decorate. Palau and Danny will play Christmas music on their guitars and because they love board games, we'll bring giant checkers and chess to play. Oh and let's not forget the food! We'll make home made meals to bring and enjoy. It's not a proper Christmas party without that! We're grateful for this opportunity God has given us. It's a chance to bring friendship to an otherwise lonely place.

The very next day, December 21st, a small team from our staff will go into the **teen jail** to celebrate Christmas with the inmates. Coming off last month's retreat where eleven young men and two young ladies gave their life to Christ, we're excited to share this first Christmas in which for them, the season has all new meaning! Again, food and music will play



Praise God! Fourteen inmates were baptized at last month's teen jail retreat!



For those who live and work at the dump, an act of kindness is like a breath of fresh air!

a large role in our event that day. We also hope to purchase new sweat suits, sanctioned by the warden, to bless the guys with. Christmas is an especially tough time in jail away from family and friends. We're grateful to be able to let them know that we're thinking of them and care about how they're doing!

On Christmas Eve, the Spectrum staff will head out early to the **Tijuana dump**.

It's become a tradition for our staff and their families to serve, bringing traditional Mexican food (can you sense a theme?) like tamales and champurrado, blankets and other items to the people who live and work among the trash. In a place where people can feel worthless and forgotten, we want them to see that God knows they're there and are of great

worth to Him. In fact, how He feels about them is what drove Jesus to come so many years ago!



Arturo unloading food during the pandemic at the seniors home.

As you can see, this season is filled with opportunities to be a blessing to those we work with and give a clear picture of what Christmas is about - God sending His Son to meet us at our point of need. We at Spectrum are grateful for you for coming alongside us with your prayers and gifts, allowing us to go and share this message! In these ways, you truly are with us in everything we do. May God bless you and your family and throughout this season, remind you of His great love that has the power to transform us no matter our circumstances.

From all of us at Spectrum, Merry Christmas!

Matt Kooi  
Director of Spectrum Ministries



Santa Chuy greeting the kids as they go to choose their toy!

We're grateful every child can pick a new toy!



*"So do not fear, for I am with you; do not be dismayed, for I am your God. I will strengthen you and help you; I will uphold you with my righteous right hand." - Isaiah 41:10*

P.S. - In order to make the best use of our resources, beginning in 2022 we will only be sending year-end statements. If at any time you have questions about your giving, please do not hesitate to reach out to our administrator by phone or text at 619-276-1385 or by email at [info@spectrumministries.org](mailto:info@spectrumministries.org). Thank you for your continued support of Spectrum Ministries!