

## It's Good To Be Unsatisfied

February 2021

As we look at our lives, I'm sure each of us have certain areas we're not satisfied with. Now that dissatisfaction can bring hopelessness. When it's centered selfishly on things we shouldn't desire, it can take us down the wrong path. But when it stems out of a desire for what God has for us, our family or the world around us, it motivates us to seek the Lord and work to bring change. A good definition for vision is **a deep dissatisfaction for the way things are and a clear understanding of how things should be.**

I know what I'm dissatisfied about here in Tijuana. People caught in sin and a poverty cycle where it seems that nothing will ever change! All the symptoms of poverty are passed down like an heirloom from one generation to the next. Every kind of abuse you can think of goes on behind closed doors and it's hard to envision it will ever be different.

So how can Spectrum make a difference? Only the power of the blood of Jesus and the sanctifying work of the Holy Spirit can truly transform a life. To reach people it's important for us to find a healthy tension between compassionately working to meet needs and evangelism/Bible teaching. This is what we believe God has called us to do.

I want to share with you several examples from the last month of how that is working...

Since March the **Tijuana teen jail**, or Cemi, has been closed to visitors. So each week our Cemi team has taken personal letters to the inmates who prior to Covid, were part of our weekly Bible study. One of the girls, Angela gave her life to Christ in 2019. Through the weekly correspondence she continued her studies and wrote back and forth with Robin, her Bible study leader. Angela got out of jail in mid January 2021 and is now studying at a Bible school about an hour south of Tijuana!

We've been unable to hold regular kids clubs, so instead we embarked on a **Scripture memory program** for our neighborhood kids. In November, we held a virtual raffle. To enter the raffle, kids were to memorize James 4:8 "Come near to God and He will come near to you", and send us a video of them quoting the verse. In February we are holding another raffle with 1 Peter 3:18 as



The kids are excited about their bags of fruit, new hats someone donated, and a chance learn a verse to enter a fun raffle.



Be praying for Yuli that God turns her heart towards Him!

the verse to quote. To date we've had over one hundred and eighty kids send us videos. For many growing up in these tough neighborhoods, it's the first verse they've ever learned!

I've written **letters sharing the Gospel** to the adults who receive our grocery bags. These letters go out to about 350 people a week. From these letters we've been able to have personal conversations with people about Jesus. Yuli whose husband has been without work for months because of the pandemic, was touched by the groceries and the letter and we were able to talk with her about God's great love for her as shown in the Gospel!

Many of you remember Eugenia who took part in our hair cutting class a few years ago. She began attending church and soon after gave her life to Christ

and was baptized. Her husband Luis however wasn't interested in the church at all. But it wasn't long before he started to notice a big change in his wife and talked to Pastor Juan about it, opening a door for conversation. Then in January, Luis contracted Covid. It was a struggle for him and his oxygen levels were really low. Spectrum helped provide oxygen and medical treatment. Fearing for his life and seeing the love and care given to him by Spectrum and the church, **Luis gave his life to Christ!** Now he's recovered and starting the process of growth through a Bible study with Pastor Juan.



Luis and Eugenia together in marriage and now in the faith as well!

In each of these cases, God had us in the right place at the right time to give the help that was needed. He then wove loving actions together with truth about Himself and His great salvation. Through your prayers and giving God is using you in this work. We're not satisfied with the generational issues that exist in our neighborhoods. But together, God is working through the Spectrum family to draw people to Him and bring change to lives and families!

From all of us here at Spectrum,

Matt Kooi  
Director of Spectrum Ministries

PS - If you want your day made, go to our Youtube channel "Spectrum Ministries" and the video entitled "Spectrum Ministries Memory Verse" to see kids from our neighborhoods saying their verses!



Angela (middle right) on her first day at Bible school!

*"Therefore, if anyone is in Christ, the new creation has come: The old has gone, the new is here!" - 2 Corinthians 5:17*