

## Forty Years of Faithfulness

January 2021



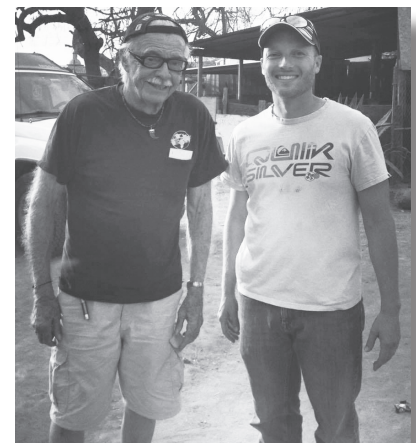
Von always had a crew of boys around him and impacted so many young men, showing them the love and attention of our Father!

Do you remember 1981? It was the year of the first space shuttle mission, as well as the year when Lady Di and Prince Charles tied the knot. The original Raiders of the Lost Ark debuted in June and the average cost of gas was \$1.25 per gallon. On a much smaller note, but decidedly more significant for many of us was what happened on April 7th of that year. Pastor Von Trutzschler incorporated the ministry he was operating in Tijuana, Mexico to form Spectrum Ministries, Inc. That makes this year Spectrum's fortieth anniversary!

For the last forty years, Spectrum has worked to show the poor children and families in Mexico that God knows them, He loves them and wants them to know Him. Pastor Von, from '81 to 2004, and then Aaron Passmore from 2004 to 2014, and now myself from 2014 to the present have all undertaken to work in various areas like kids clubs, neighborhood outreaches, orphanages and the Tijuana teen jail to achieve that goal. And so many over those forty years have been a part of it. Even many of you! Taking a trip or partnering financially with Spectrum helped us to accomplish the work God has called us to. But it's always been about more than that. It's about the fellowship we've forged in serving together. And it's about opening our eyes to the love God has for the poor, and gaining a burning heart for missions that continues to this day! These things remain at the core of what Spectrum is.

While there is no way to come up with exact figures, I spent a little time calculating several areas in which God has enabled us to be there for people over the last forty years:

- Vegetables given out in poor communities: 5,760 crates of tomatoes and 172,800 lbs of potatoes just to name a few.
- Estimated 1,000 houses have been built for families in need
- 4,320 kids participated in camping ministry
- 4,160 orphanage visits
- 2,080 visits to the youth in the Tijuana teen jail
- 598,400 articles of clothing donated
- 326,400 children have had their feet washed through our hygiene ministry
- 15,200 people who have come down to serve with us.



I'm eternally grateful for the time I got to spend with Pastor Von. Hardly a day goes by I don't think of something he taught me!



I wonder how many slices of watermelon Efred has handed out in his 40 years with Spectrum?

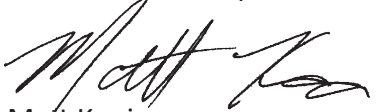
Really these numbers represent just the tip of the iceberg as to all that's gone on since 1981 and the countless lives God has touched. In order to tell more of the story, throughout this year, one of our longtime Spectrum board members, Heather Kinney will be writing a small piece called History Highlights to be included with the newsletter. I hope you enjoy each article and come away with a deeper understanding of how God has so faithfully led us throughout the years. You may also notice our new logo that was put together by a friend of the ministry to celebrate the occasion.

But what we truly hope to communicate with you is not only where Spectrum has been, but where Spectrum is going. All of the help given, trust earned and love shown has opened avenues into peoples' lives for real, authentic relationships. These relationships enable us to share the Gospel as friends with those we work with. We can partner with Mexican churches to impact families in our neighborhoods, and see Jesus Christ at work transforming their lives. With God's help we can see our communities grow through providing opportunities for individuals to gain skills and education to break the poverty cycle. Our hope is to see real change in people through investment personally and spiritually.

Working in a place like Tijuana isn't easy. Pastor Von used to call it the "devil's playground" and it's sometimes tough to imagine change here. We've seen satan defend his turf with things like abuse, violence, destruction and lies. But Jesus has something more to say about that. In Matthew 16:18 Jesus declares, "...on this rock I will build my church, and the gates of Hades will not overcome it." In other words, satan and the gates of hell can't keep out Christ and His church! So by His strength and authority and with your partnership, Spectrum will continue to tear down the walls satan has so deeply dug and entrenched, and go in to reach the poor and hopeless with the Gospel of Jesus Christ. Jesus is powerful and He is able to forgive sins and set people free!

No matter at what point you joined in the forty year history, you've been a part of this work and I and our Spectrum staff say thank you. We look forward to celebrating together throughout this year all that God has done, and all He will do for years to come!

From all of us at Spectrum Ministries, thanks and God bless you!

  
Matt Kooi  
Spectrum Ministries Director

PS - Thank you to everyone who participated and helped with the Christmas toy drive. We met our goal and passed out over 1,500 toys to kids in our communities! Please take a moment to watch our video by going to our [spectrumministries.org](http://spectrumministries.org) home page to get a taste of how it went. Thank you!



Providing opportunities to show God's love to those in need goes back to the origins of Spectrum.



We're so grateful to be able to bring toys this Christmas! This girl loved her new doll!



We work to continue to be there for kids from tough backgrounds to let them know we love them and so does Jesus!

*"I will praise you, Lord among the nations; I will sing of you among the peoples, for great is your love, reaching to the heavens; your faithfulness reaches to the skies. Be exalted, O God, above the heavens; let your glory be over all the earth." - Psalm 57:9-11*