

Revvng Our Engines

March 2021



Looking forward to sharing the Gospel at our outreaches...

We recently received some very welcomed news. Tijuana is now under code “yellow”! The Mexican state of Baja throughout the pandemic has used the idea of a traffic light, or semaforo in Spanish, to illustrate the degree of imposed Covid restrictions. In mid January, at the height of the second wave the city was considered “red” and in full lockdown mode. Covid seemed to be everywhere and hospitals were at over eighty percent capacity. Since then, cases have plummeted and hospital occupancy for Covid patients is now only fifteen percent. Praise God! This drastic decrease has prompted officials to move to code “yellow” meaning proceed with caution. Restaurants, churches, etc will now open at fifty percent and gatherings can be up to twenty people. Definitely a step in the right direction!

So now we find ourselves like drag racers, revving our engines, anticipating the light to turn “green”. Mind you, we will take our time and open things the right way. But we are excited, and with good reason. Our regular **Spectrum programs** will bring back opportunities for interactions we are so looking forward to!



Looking forward to Conversations with people at our outreaches...

Our door to door home deliveries of vegetables and groceries during the pandemic have been very effective in providing for those who are struggling, as well as for staying connected with the people we minister to. But it’s still not the same as our *weekly outreaches*. These draw hundreds of people together and provide local Tijuana churches a chance to serve and make connections in their communities. Groups from the States come as well to work alongside us and gain a heart for missions and God’s incredible love for the people of Mexico. During an outreach we have time to talk. Deeper conversations happen and windows of opportunities open to hear peoples’ stories and at the same time, share with them God’s story. At each outreach we get to meet new people as well, and kids always have a blast!



Looking forward to kids painting pictures...

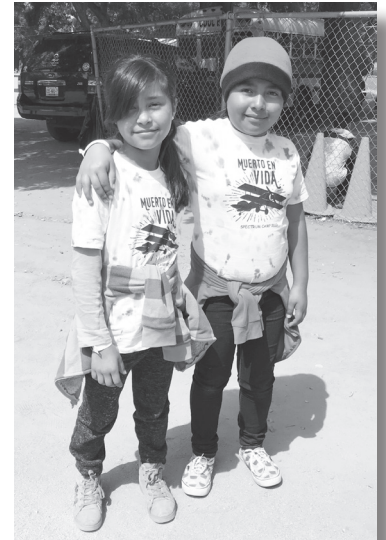


Looking forward to kids club outings...

Our weekly *Kids Clubs* sadly haven't been in operation for over a year now! We miss being able to provide a safe place for kids to have fun, hear a Gospel message, learn verses and sing songs. All inside the confines of a local church. Why is that important? Kids become familiar with what the church building is about and that it's a place for them. Prior to the pandemic, we were driving down into the neighborhoods to pick kids up and bring them on Sunday morning as well. All of that stemmed from their time at kids club. As the churches begin to re-open we look forward to starting that again. Our prayer is that their parents will join them!

Imagine living in an *orphanage* under quarantine. No school and no visitors. We look forward to going back in and spending time with these precious kids. While there we get to encourage them and be a part of their lives. It enables us to see needs first hand and partner with the orphanage directors to help. In the end, we want these young ones to know their heavenly Father loves them and has plans for their lives!

One lament we heard the most from kids this past year is that *Kid's Camp* was canceled. They missed the outdoor environment, away from their urban streets, where they could have fun, eat good food, hear the Gospel and sing songs, all while enjoying nature. Camp is a special place, and while our normal May dates may be too soon to plan for, we already have scheduled **August 6-8** for camp this summer. We can't wait!



Looking forward to kids going to camp...

Von always said you can tell the health of a church by looking at their youth ministry and mission's programs. From the beginning, inviting *church groups* to serve the poor with us cross culturally is a big part of what we do. It expands their perception of God's love for the nations and helps them gain a heart for missions, impacting their local church. We've developed a Covid policy to protect church groups who come and the people they work with. The doors are open this summer and we're excited for people to come join us!

Throughout the pandemic, God has faithfully allowed us to be there for people in need. But it has been different. Pray for us as we begin to move and open fully the ministry areas God has given us. May He work through each encounter to enable people in our Tijuana communities to realize just how much He loves them and all He's done to save them!

From all of us at Spectrum,

Matt Kooi
Director of Spectrum Ministries

PS - To celebrate Spectrum's 40th Anniversary we would love to have you share any stories of your experience with Spectrum and how it has touched your life. It would encourage us and our staff

greatly to hear the impact this ministry has made for the kingdom not just here in Mexico, but across the border in your life as well. How has God worked through Spectrum to add to the story He's telling in your life? We would love to hear it! You can write and send it our address or email us at info@spectrumministries.org. Thank you!



Looking forward to groups coming to serve...

"...making the most of every opportunity, because the days are evil."
- Ephesians 5:16