

JOY *of the* LORD



U-TURN FOR CHRIST VOLUNTEERS SPEND A WEEKEND REPAIRING BICYCLES & SHARING THE GOSPEL IN BAJA, MEXICO

Story by Margot Bass
Photos courtesy U-Turn for Christ



Pastor Gerry Brown

More than 50 people from Maneadero, Baja California, waited patiently this May to have their bicycles—in disrepair or lacking parts—repaired by missionaries and volunteers working with U-Turn for Christ’s Ensenada-area ranch. Men lovingly labored to rebuild the bicycles, which are a lifeline for town residents. Gerry Brown, founder of U-Turn and senior pastor of Calvary Chapel Romoland, CA, explained, “People know that all they have to bring is a frame and we’ll put all the pieces together to make their bicycles complete. The beauty of this ministry is that the whole time we’re fixing someone’s bicycle, we’re sharing the Gospel.”

This was one part of a large weekend outreach to more than 400 at a local Maneadero park and on Sunday at another location. U-Turn is a non-denominational, Christ-centered discipleship program for men and women seeking restoration from addiction, with locations across America and internationally. The Ensenada staff has been serving communities in Mexico for years. “When people do accept Christ, we can point them to the Calvary Chapel on the U-Turn property. At the same time, they learn that the ministry is available for those they love who have addictions,” said Pastor Angel Baez, an overseer at the ranch.

More than 100 volunteers from several Calvary Chapels shared Jesus through fun activities, all free. Children and adults enjoyed face- and fingernail-painting, hair-braiding,



games, sweet treats, and nearly 1,500 grilled hotdogs. Christians shared the story of David and Goliath with children who then got to throw a beanbag at a plywood cut-out of Goliath. Volunteers gave away food and clothing and offered haircuts; two chiropractors stayed busy providing adjustments. Five new bicycles were given away in a raffle. Throughout the day, residents gathered for Bible teachings and testimonies at the gazebo. “We turn the park into a Jesus Christ fiesta,” Gerry noted. Nearly 100 were saved both days of the outreach, he added.

“Assuredly, I say to you, inasmuch as you did it [good deeds] to one of the least of these My brethren, you did it to Me.” MATTHEW 25:40b

On Sunday, the team traveled to a nearby village, Colonia Lázaro Cárdenas, for a similar but smaller outreach, serving approximately 30 farm workers and their families who have migrated from the southern Mexican state of Oaxaca. “This is a huge ministry because many Mexicans ostracize

them,” Gerry stated. Pastor Augustine Pulido, missions pastor at CC Romoland, said, “We’ve always gone to poor villages, but this was a totally different level of poverty.” These Oxacans often live in empty lots, making homes of tents, tarps, old mattresses, and plywood; or they live in tiny rooms that were originally pig pens or horse stables. “We gave them food, clothes, and shoes. Most importantly, we gave them the Word of God,” Augustine added. For Gerry, the highlight of the trip was watching believers serve the less fortunate. “They were hot, dirty, and tired; yet the joy of the Lord was on their faces as they committed that time to honoring Jesus.” Calvary Chapels from Carlsbad, El Alfarero, Mission Viejo, Kingsfield Church, as well as Revival Christian Fellowship in Menifee, Living Way Christian Fellowship in Hemet, and Valle de Maneadero, Mexico, joined in the outreach. 🙌

Church groups or individuals desiring to experience U-Turn missions are encouraged to contact the ministry: info@uturnforchrist.com

Top left: U-Turn for Christ volunteers labor on Saturday to rebuild bicycles for local residents in Maneadero, Baja California.

Top right: Pastor Martin Guevara preaches from the back of a pickup truck during the Baja California outreach.

Bottom left: Two chiropractors provide free back and neck adjustments in Maneadero.

Bottom center: Peggy Brown offers practical necessities as free gifts to residents.

Bottom right: Armando Jimenez (right), a U-Turn for Christ missionary, shares the hope believers have in Jesus Christ.

