

“I was in prison, and you visited me”

Matthew 25.36



Report on Activities: November - December 2024

This report highlights the impactful work carried out by the Hazel Soper Foundation in November and December 2024. These efforts aimed to bring hope, joy, and the message of Christ to communities in need, particularly inmates, their families, and vulnerable populations across Colombia. Thanks to your generous support, we made a tangible impact on nearly 1,000 individuals through three main projects:

- 1. Visit to Chiquinquirá Medium-Security Prison (November 23, 2024)**
- 2. Adaptation and distribution of Easy Spanish Christmas Novenas**
- 3. Christmas gifts for the children of inmates**

Project Locations: Chiquinquirá, Bogotá, Cartagena

Target Beneficiaries: Inmates and their families, children, Venezuelan migrants, orphans, and underserved communities

Total Lives Impacted: Nearly 1,000 individuals

Key Partners: Christian Crusade Church and Prison Fellowship International (PFI)

PROJECT 1. VISIT TO CHIQUINQUIRA MEDIUM SECURITY PRISON

OVERVIEW

On November 23, 2024, we visited the medium-security prison of Chiquinquirá in Boyacá, carrying out an outreach activity aimed at bringing hope, fellowship, and spiritual nourishment to the inmates and prison staff. This initiative was made possible through the generosity of our donors, who contributed approximately \$900 USD (COP 4,042,000).

We reached over 500 individuals, including inmates, guards, and our team, by sharing not only a meal but also the Word of God through two Bible stories and uplifting music. Despite unexpected challenges, the activity was a success, and we are deeply grateful for your support.

Key Highlights

- **Bible Distribution:** We delivered 180 Bibles and materials for ongoing discipleship effort carried out by the Christian Crusade Church.
- **Meal Distribution:** We shared a special meal of empanadas and juice, a welcome change from the typical prison menu, which was warmly received by all participants.
- **Gifts Delivered:** We provided essential items, including balls, DVDs, power outlets, and cables, to enhance recreational and spiritual activities within the prison. However, certain restrictions prevented us from installing the power outlets and cables.
- **Spiritual Upliftment:** Two Bible stories were shared—Paul and Silas in prison (Acts 16) and the calling of Matthew (Matthew 9)—offering a message of hope and transformation.
- **Music Performance:** A talented hip-hop singer brought joy and energy to the event, connecting with the inmates through music.
- **Personal Impact:** We shared Bible stories, prayed with individuals, and brought hope to a population often overlooked.



Challenges Faced

A police raid delayed the start of our activity. Typically, such situations result in cancellations, but through prayer, we witnessed a breakthrough and were allowed to proceed after two hours of waiting and praying.

Access was limited as not all wings were opened. However, we adapted by using the central patio and ensuring we spent meaningful time in the available areas.

Despite prior authorization, tools, cables, and power outlets were not permitted inside, which impacted our ability to implement planned technical improvements.



Expenses breakdown

Below is a detailed breakdown of how the funds were utilized:

Electric outlets	\$ 45,000
Cables	\$ 18,000
Meals and speaker	\$ 2,130,000
Lunch	\$ 32,000
Brayan - singer	50,000
Gasoline	180,000
Gas	50,000
Bibles	1,200,000
Print-outs	80,000
Wire tie and screws	12,000
Toll-booths	35,000
Parking	10,000
Travel expenses	200,000
	\$ 4,042,000

All amounts are expressed in Colombian Pesos

Impact

Despite unforeseen obstacles, the visit left a lasting impression on the inmates and staff. Many expressed gratitude for the meal, the message, and the opportunity to connect with our team. The positive feedback reaffirmed the importance of this ministry, not only in meeting immediate needs but also in sharing God's love and hope.



Discssing the latest deatils before the event



PROJECT 2. EASY SPANISH CHRISTMAS NOVENAS

OVERVIEW

The Christmas novena is a cherished Colombian tradition that brings families and friends together to ponder for nine days the accounts of the journey of Mary and Joseph ending with the Birth of Jesus. This year, we adapted the novena into Easy Spanish to make it accessible to a broader audience, especially those with limited reading skills. We distributed and hosted novenas across 5 locations, reaching over 300 people.

Highlights by location

Bogota

- Shared the novena at a rooming house with 40 residents, primarily Venezuelan migrants.
- Distributed **15 gifts** to children and provided a traditional meal of natilla and buñuelos.
- Prayed with the residents and shared the gospel, getting an opportunity to bring some joy and help this people escape their reality for a moment, and remind them about how much God cares for them.
- One little girl said: *“Before, I lived on the streets, but now I have a place I can call home.”*



Cartagena, Bolivar

- Conducted a novena with children in an underserved area, shared the gospel, and distributed gifts.



Chiquinquirá, Boyacá

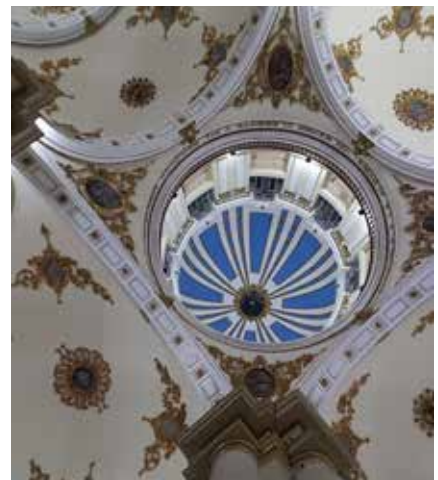
Chiquinquirá is a very religious city. They call themselves the Mary Worshipers Capital City. Having the opportunity to openly share the gospel in a place that used to stone Christians has been a major breakthrough. As mentioned earlier, the Novena is also a Catholic tradition, but this time we had the opportunity to use this tradition to help people remember about the greatest gift to the world, Jesus Christ.



A sign at the only bridge in the town that reads: Chiquinquirá, the Mary Capital of Colombia



At the bus terminal



The roofing at one of the Cathedrals, there are 3 plazas and there are 3 big Cathedrals on those plazas

Key Highlights

- **Bus Terminal:** Hosted a novena with 200 participants and invited them to reflect on the gift of Christ.
- **Apartment Complex:** Celebrated the Novena with 50 residents, including a special birthday celebration for Sergio, a boy abandoned by his mother. Thanks to your support, we provided a cake, candles, and gifts, making his day unforgettable.
- **Orphanage:** Shared the novena and the gospel with boys from an orphanage, bringing joy and encouragement.



My favorite line in the Novena reads:

*“Help to the helpless, refuge to the brokenhearted, comfort to the distressed, and a light to the exiled!
The life of my life, my adored master, my faithful friend, my divine brother!”*

PROJECT 3. CHRISTMAS GIFTS FOR CHILDREN OF INMATES

OVERVIEW

In December, we returned to Chiquinquirá prison for a Christmas activity aimed at the families of inmates, particularly their children. This initiative sought to ease the pain of separation by bringing smiles and a message of hope to those enduring the challenges of having their loved ones behind bars. At one point, that place which is a place where all hope is lost, was filled with life, with kids running around as they played with the toys we gave them, and families enjoying bonding together and for a while God's light and love completely changed the atmosphere, the only hope and love God can bring, a real freedom even between bars.

Key Highlights

- **100 families reached:** Provided gifts for children and a copy of the gospels in Easy Spanish to each family. Additionally, we had a one-on-one time and prayed for each of them.
- **Atmosphere transformation:** The prison patio, often a place of despair, was filled with laughter and joy as children played with their new toys and families experienced moments of happiness.
- Prayed with a mother who was denied access to visit her son. She was coming from a city 4 hours away. As she was crying we approached her and prayed for her. She was left with renewed hope, a smile, and a copy of the gospels in Easy Spanish, which she started reading as she was there waiting.
- Witnessed families finding light and peace through the love of God.
- Some families traveled long distances but were denied entry due to strict security protocols. Despite this, we offered prayer and encouragement to those waiting outside.



KEY RESULTS AND IMPACT OF THESE THREE PROJECTS

These three initiatives have demonstrated the transformative power of God's love and the community of believers. Each project became an avenue to share the hope of Christ—offering spiritual and emotional support to inmates, presenting the gospel through cherished cultural traditions, and bringing the light of Jesus into the lives of children facing hardship. Together, these efforts have touched many lives, showcasing the profound impact of faith in fostering hope and resilience among the vulnerable and underserved. Below is a summary of the results achieved through these spiritually impactful projects:

- **Total lives impacted:** Nearly **1,000** people.
- **Bible Distribution:** **120** Bible portions and **180** full Bibles.
- **Christmas Gifts Distributed:** **170** gifts for children.
- **Meals provided:** **750** meals shared across projects.
- **Partnerships:** Collaboration with the Christian Crusade Church ensures ongoing discipleship for inmates.

Expenses Breakdown for Projects 2-3

Toys, gifts and bags	\$ 1,042,000
Gasoline	91,900
Gas	61,253
Toll-booths	33,600
Parking	70,200
Novena Activity	465,000
Travel expenses	230,000
Taxes	\$ 11,788
Bank fees	\$ 25,626
	\$ 2,031,367

All amounts are expressed in Colombian Pesos

The work accomplished during these months was a clear reflection of God's abundant provision and the unwavering support of our dedicated partners like you. Together, we've brought light to dark places, freedom within bars, and joy to those in need. As we move forward, we are committed to continuing these efforts, ensuring that the seeds planted will grow and bear fruit. Thank you for being a part of this mission. Your prayers, generosity, and partnership are making a profound difference.



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