

## Jr. High Christmas Gift Box Delivery Report

December 11, 2010

:: Shared by John Riley, Junior High Pastor ::

The Lord answered our prayers by making the trip into and out of Mexico a breeze at the border checkpoints. Last year we were delayed over three hours just trying to bring the presents into Tijuana and then we had to pay a 16% tax on the estimated value. This year, however, the customs let us go right in. We were grateful that Pastor Salás from Iglesia Latina Emmanuel, our sister church here in Escondido, came along to help translate as he is familiar with saying what needs to be said and that helped us get through.



Our group arrived early enough to knock on doors in the neighborhood around the church and invite children to come to the church service and receive Christmas presents. Between 300 and 350 children came to the church from the surrounding neighborhood. This photo (at left) is of the first group of children lining up to enter the church by their age.



Pastor Salás shared the gospel and the Christmas story for the children and about 80 mothers who were also there and he led them in a prayer if they wanted to trust the Lord with their lives.

Following the service the children received a present. Every year I have this sinking feeling in my stomach as the children begin to open their gifts. I know what they are going to open and I wish it could be more. I wish the gifts were better or bigger, and every year I'm again surprised at how excited some of the children are to discover a hot wheels car or a pack of marbles inside.



One boy was spotted peeking into his present; noticing a toothbrush first, he became so excited that he put the gift down and began jumping up and down yelling "toothbrush, toothbrush."

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These little girls sat on a wall without opening their gift for about 20 minutes just savoring the fact that they were holding a Christmas present.



This little girl didn't know how to respond to receiving her gift. She took a few steps outside of the church and just started to cry. About 20 minutes later she sat down on the wall and also slowly opened her gift, it seemed like she was savoring the experience.