

# Navajo News



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*Bringing the Gospel of Jesus to the Navajo*

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## Free Health Clinic with the Centerville Mission Group

It was a huge blessing indeed to do the Free Health Clinic both at Crownpoint Church and at La Vida with the mission group from Centerville SDA Church, Centerville, Ohio on March 25 and 26, 2025

We're so thankful to be able to work and serve with Dr. Mark Striebel, MD and Ms. Faith Connovich, CNP from Centerville Ohio. Dr. Mark is not a member of our church yet he gave his full support to this ministry with his wife Julie and has even thought of the possibility of coming again to serve our native community. What a blessing! Ms. Faith Connovich is a long-time friend and supporter of the Mission with her husband Ron. They started coming to La Vida Mission in 2011 with a group from their church in Centerville, Ohio, to help with various projects and programs of the Mission. Also joining us at these free clinics was our very own Dr. Robert Gardner from Rio Rancho SDA Church who currently serves as the LVM Board President and is a regular voluntary consultant for our La Vida Mission Clinic. He has always been available and able to support not only the clinic and our health ministry but every aspect of the Mission's ministry. We are deeply and truly grateful for their dedication, compassion and for the exceptional support they provided for the free health clinic services here in La Vida Mission and we are inspired to be even more willing to do the work that God entrusted to us.

The different services offered and rendered were physical check-ups, total cholesterol, HDL (High-density lipoprotein, LDL (-Low-density lipoprotein, Triglycerides, and blood glucose tests. More than 20 people, including some police officers from the Navajo Police, Crownpoint Department, were privileged to see the Doctors.

This health program also gave us the opportunity to distribute free books and pamphlets that will help the people to know our God like "Walking with Jesus" in English and Navajo (inspired by the messages from Steps to Christ) and Amazing Facts pamphlets by Doug Bachelor. We're praying and hoping that this health outreach and ministry with our simple actions that reflect kindness, compassion, and love will be a reflection of Jesus, allowing others to see Him through us, especially in our everyday lives. It was a pleasure and a blessing working with these medical practitioners for the Lord and His people.

- by VJ & Beth Panganiban



## Notes from the Fix-it Shop

Hello Dear Brothers and Sisters!

Along with our usual fix-it items that were completed, I want to let you know about a recent Mission Group who came to La Vida to help with various projects.

Ten people came here from Centerville, Ohio to help with various tasks. We were blessed with a full week of worship including Mr. Ron's message on Sabbath. The medical team within that group provided examinations for staff and community, both here at La Vida and also in Crownpoint. The hands on tasks included preparing one greenhouse for spring planting (including their purchase of 96 bags of top soil), reverse osmosis building cleanout, huge trash pile load-up and hauling, and roof patching on several duplexes. They brought their own cook who provided meals for the group, our staff, and students. We were so blessed by

their presence and their can-do attitude.

Thank you Centerville!  
We hope to see you again soon!

Until we meet again, may the Lord shine His face upon you!

-Lee McIntosh





*From the Director's Desk:*

Warm Greetings Dear Reader,

As I type, my thoughts go to the wonderful mission group from Centerville, Ohio – the Centerville SDA Church – who just left after giving of their means, time and talents the week of March 23-29. Huge thanks to the Centerville mission group for blessing us with your joyful presence, all of your super hard work, a wonderful Week of Prayer, and your generous donations to ensure that we had enough soil and other items to complete the projects at hand. Be sure to see the article and pictures about their visit in this edition.

In our previous edition of our newsletter (March 2025) there was a very solemn and heartfelt letter penned by our Board President, Dr. Robert Gardner, entitled, "Broken Arrow". Indeed we are in sore need of committed SDA Christians to fill two critical positions: an experienced Maintenance Manager and Office Manager/Bookkeeper (see sidebar on page 3). We are also in great need of reliable vehicles to transport our students. The 4-Runner has a history of stalling to the point that it is unusable anymore. The G20 broke down in the middle of nowhere with our students on board on our way to the Piñon Hills SDA Church where our students had been invited to participate. Thus, we are down to two vehicles and praying that they hold up by God's Grace. If anyone out there reading this is impressed, we would welcome inquiries about the open positions, as well as donations towards replacing our fleet, whether monetary or actual vehicles.

The Lord has definitely watched over and upheld this Mission for over 60 years, and we greatly appreciate the donations of labor, funds, resources and service from every heart He impresses. We cannot do it without Him and those He uses to bless us. Huge thanks to each of you for your ongoing prayers and support!

May God Richly Bless You

Kim

**"As many as I love, I rebuke and chasten. Therefore, be zealous and repent. Behold, I stand at the door and knock. If anyone hears My voice and opens the door, I will come in to him and dine with him, and he with Me. To him who overcomes I will grant to sit with Me on My throne, as I also overcame and sat down with My Father on His throne."**

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**Director**

Kimberly Ellis

**Editor**

Gayle Smith

**Send address corrections & correspondence to**

P. O. Box 3308

Farmington, NM 87499

**UPS/Fedex Shipping Address**

Lake Valley Area

700 CR 7730

Crownpoint, NM 87313

Telephone (505)786-5539

Fax (505)786-7650

E-mail: [office@lavidamission.org](mailto:office@lavidamission.org)

Website: [www.lavidamission.org](http://www.lavidamission.org)

**Donation Information**

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**Visiting Piñon Hills Church in Farmington, NM**



Despite a vehicle breakdown on the way to Farmington, we were fortunate to be able to participate in the church service at Piñon Hills Church. The students sang, played music on their recorders and even gave the message. It was a beautiful day to share with our brothers and sisters in Christ. Thank you, Piñon Hills church members, for inviting us!



### School Plumbing Needs



Several months ago we noticed a bad smell coming from the boy's bathroom at the school. We asked a Constituent of La Vida Mission to investigate. He took a good look down into the sewer

pipes that come from the bathroom and discovered that the old cast iron pipes have collapsed. Due to lack of immediate funds to repair the situation, the students and teachers have been moved into space within the Administration Building. I have contacted a key member of a school that came here as a Mission Group eight years ago to repair a similar problem and they have agreed to come later this year to cut into the existing concrete to the bathroom (through tiled floors) and replace the failing pipes. This needs to be completed before we can return students to the school. A rough estimate of the cost of repairs is around \$20,000 as the bathrooms will need to be re-done at the same time. The sewer line will need to be replaced from the school to a point where other pipes have been upgraded. We do have some funds but we are praying for additional funds to complete this project in a timely manner. Please pray and consider if you are able to financially donate to this project.

Thank you and God Bless you all!  
-Lee, Maintenance Supervisor



### Current Financial Needs

We are still collecting donations for a tractor to help us maintain our roads and keep up with various maintenance projects.

If you would like to donate to this project, please let us know the donation is to go toward the tractor. If you would like more information, please contact Ms. Kim at 505-786-3004.

### Positions Available:

Is the Lord touching your heart to step into full-time missions? We always need committed, mission-minded individuals to be a part of La Vida Mission. Currently we are looking for a maintenance manager and an office manager/bookkeeper. If you are interested in one of these or other possible positions, please contact Ms. Kim at 505-786-3004, email kim@lavidamission.org, or mail a letter of interest to PO Box 3308, Farmington, NM 87499.

### In Memory of

George & Margaret Armstrong  
Florence Blanchard  
Bern Bless  
Aunt Lita Castillo  
Pastor Steve Gillham  
Peggy Hunter-Hasting  
Wayne Hyatt  
Paul W. Johnson Jr.  
Art & Barry Lizer  
Jose Lopez  
Larry McCoy  
Pat & Brenda McDonald  
Jane Moore  
Fleta Oliver  
Cara Rickaby  
Nobert Sammer  
Kenneth Smith  
Lydia Brook Wood

by Lanny & Barbara Davis  
by David & Elizabeth Johnston  
by Simon Elloway  
by Emilio & Sal Fariaz  
by Carol Gillham  
by Jackie Small  
by Lynette Hyatt  
by Paul Johnson Jr.  
by Oradelle Lizer  
by Dianne Lopez  
by Nancy McCoy Wearner  
by Rhonda McDonald  
by Drs. Chris and Lily Moore  
by Mr. & Mrs. Jack Wood  
by Jerry Rickaby  
by David & Maxine Smith  
by Lola Smith  
by Mr. & Mrs. Jack Wood

### In Honor of

Mary Wood by Jackie Small

Thank you to all of the donors who make a difference at La Vida!

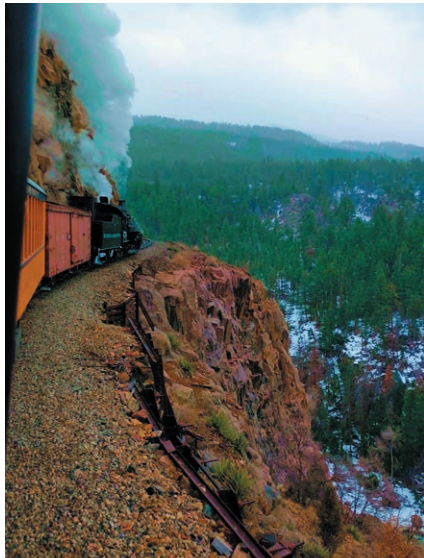
### Bulletin Board

#### Special Thanks to:

- Our Heavenly Father for providing our needs.
- Faithful donors who support LVM with prayers, financial and other donations (including Box Tops for Education).
- Student sponsors for their many contributions, prayers and letters.
- Echo Food bank, Farmington, NM for produce and other food items.
- Neal Kelley & Sharing Ministry for donations of produce and supplies.
- Donors/supporters of the recently concluded Philippines Mission trip by LVM Staff.
- Centerville SDA Church Mission Group for all their hard work and for funding their projects.
- Sherman Mohler for washer, dryer and other needed items for the dorms.

# An Exciting Field Trip on the Durango & Silverton Narrow Gauge Railroad!

Thanks to generous donors, La Vida Mission School students and staff were able to go on a wonderful school field trip on March 3, 2025. The venue, chosen many months prior, was a steam-engine train ride on the infamous Durango & Silverton Narrow Gauge Railroad located in Durango, Colorado (a 2-hour drive north from La Vida). We booked ahead for one of the last rides of the winter season - the Cascade Canyon Winter Train Ride. The excursion spans 26 miles each way – a 5.25 hour round trip experience of amazing sights. Per the venue’s website... “This unforgettable roundtrip excursion departs from Durango and journeys to Cascade Canyon offering magnificent views of the Animas River and the snowclad peaks of the Rocky Mountains of southwest Colorado.”



I personally had no idea this train was so well known and revered by tourists, but I learned why shortly after the train got rolling. After the train pulled out we were soon greeted by friendly locals smiling and waving as we rolled by. We passed by small, quaint housing developments and gorgeous scenery everywhere you looked. The further up the grade we traveled the more majestic the scene. At times the train was so close to the sides of the rocky embankments you could reach out and touch it if you dared (which you don’t and are instructed by the train stewards before pulling out to keep your hands inside the train at all times). Other times the path of the train was so narrow you could look out the window and see nothing but a sheer drop of hundreds of feet down to the gorgeously green Animas River that twisted and turned for miles. And then came the snow! Big giant flakes of white made everything look like a wonderland. Absolutely beautiful! Breathtaking even. Many of us went to the open car to see better even though it was cold. That’s where I learned how famous this railroad is as I got to talk with other friendly travelers who were as excited as I now was to be on this train. They had come from as far as the east coast and Ohio just to ride this train. The kiddos (i.e., our students) were very enthralled to see the wonderful sights of tall evergreens bedecked with snow, so starkly different from the barren desert scenery we are used to at the Mission. The teachers

and chaperones were taking many pictures and pointing out things to the students. Halfway through the trip the train stops for about 15-20 minutes and the kiddos and adults hopped off to absorb the beautiful surroundings (and take more pictures, of course!). At this stop there is a large, covered picnic area which, in the warmer seasons, would be a fantastic place to have a cookout. You could never drive to this place – the only way in is the train. I learned later that this train is the only access into many other remote areas to hike, camp and even zip-line! I was amazed to learn of the many excursions and adventures offered by the Durango & Silverton Narrow Gauge Railroad.

We were also very grateful for the courteous train staff and to receive free food for the students per the generous spirit of the Train Captain (not sure if that was actually his title, but he was the boss!). Not to mention our amazing group sales rep, Jen, who went above and beyond to help us.

On our return to the train depot, we visited the on-site museum which was so full of history and interesting relics of the past for the children to marvel over, like some of the first cars ever driven, a railroad car from the late 1800’s/early 1900’s bedecked with the comforts of the Victorian era, steam engine drawings and components, a super old bicycle and old-fashioned wooden wheelchair, an old-time wooden phone booth with the old-time phone, and the most amazing taxidermy one could ever imagine! There was even a full-sized humongous Moose! Tons of real animals preserved for us to see – a huge beaver, badger, moose-heads, a large mountain lion, owls. The museum was so full of different things it was hard to see it all.

We hope you get a taste for yourself through the window of the many pictures taken by our group.

- Kim

