

# Navajo News



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*Bringing the Gospel of Jesus to the Navajo*

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## The Right Arm of the Gospel at Work

Through the ministry of Ellen White, the Lord indicated that the "gospel of health" was to be the "right arm" of the third angel's message. She wrote: "Again and again I have been instructed that the medical missionary work is to bear the same relation to the work of the third angel's message that the arm and hand bear to the body. Under the direction of the divine Head they are to work unitedly in preparing the way for the coming of Christ. The right arm of the body of truth is to be constantly active, constantly at work, and God will strengthen it. (Testimonies to the Church, Vol. 6, P. 288)



It is an accepted fact that "informed individuals make better health choices and awareness campaigns combat stigma, promote early detection, and encourage healthy behaviors". Therefore, the Health Ministry Department of La Vida Mission endeavors to provide education on healthy lifestyle modification, nutrition, hygiene, disease prevention, and mental health because we believe that "when health ministries alleviate suffering, they bear witness to God's healing power. Miracles happen through medical interventions and prayer and healing becomes a testimony, drawing people closer to faith" and thus truly becoming the right arm of the gospel.

The Wetzel Williams Diné Hozho Clinic here at La Vida, through the ministry of Dr. Robert Gardner, internal medicine and his health team and assistants, has served the local community with their health needs. It has also served the Navajo Police on several occasions as well as the students and staff of La Vida. Truly, Dr. Gardner, who is also the president of the La Vida Mission

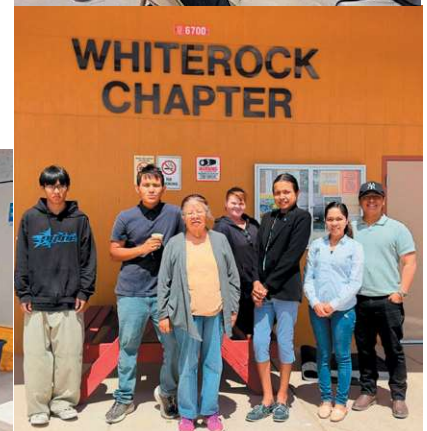
Board, has been a real blessing to our constituency and beyond and we praise God for sending him to us.

Also, summer is always the busiest time of the year for outreach. One very important health outreach activity is responding to the Navajo Chapter Houses' Invitations to do nutrition and healthy lifestyle education for the young people and students who work in the Chapter Houses under their Summer Youth Development Program. In June, we were very grateful and delighted for the privilege of ministering once again to the youth in Lake Valley Chapter House and Whiterock Chapter House by teaching them Hydrotherapy and Healthy Vegetarian cooking. VJ taught the principles of healthy lifestyle and hydrotherapy and gave a hands-on demo on the different ways and methods of using God's important gift of water to make people healthy and well while Beth led in the vegetarian cooking. She taught how to make vegetarian "meat" patties and how to prepare various smoothies to help diabetics, which is a common problem among our people. The session always begins with prayer and again ends with prayer and with a delicious meal of what we cooked for the day, to the delight of everyone who attended the classes.



Truly, the right arm is at work even in this remote part of the country and we have seen that as we follow God's plan, victories of sharing the gospel and the love of Jesus to the people are certain and sure.

- VJ & Beth Panganiban, Co-Outreach Directors of La Vida Mission





From the Director's Desk:

Warm Greetings to Everyone,

As I type, my thoughts go to the wonderful mission group from Maryland that just left our campus this morning, Southern Asian SDA Church (SASDAC) from Silver Spring, Maryland. Every mission group is very special, and this group was a special treat for me being from my home state. I was overjoyed to see them piling out of their rental van and headed toward the cafeteria this morning to fellowship with us one last time at staff worship, as I thought they'd left already to make the airport in plenty of time. Pastor Noi closed out worship with prayer, and then unexpected celebration broke out – complete with singing, clapping and even cupcakes - as we learned of three birthdays among their group. What a joyful start to the day and week! Thank you, SASDAC, for blessing us with your joyful presence, and for all of your super hard work and beautiful music! Truly a beautiful group of leaders and youth, and I look forward to keeping in touch and seeing them again.

Since our last newsletter we have had many challenges – a water outage, equipment failures, pest mitigation, and major storms on Friday, 6/21/24, just to name a few. The storms caused flooding and really tore up the landscape, including the roads on campus and in the surrounding communities. Our maintenance team -- down to one man (thank you, Junior!) while Bob-the-Gem is on a well-deserved month-long vacation back east -- was already overwhelmed even before Bob left! Even so, we have been very blessed to have two summer youth workers who have been a great help (thank you, Demetrius and Isiaha!) APPEAL: There is a Job Posting in this issue of our newsletter for a Maintenance Manager, and I would like to make an appeal to any qualified folks out there to pray to the Lord to see if He is calling you. We really need help in this area.

In closing, I must sign off to get back to work on policies, school and staff orientation, and training, among the many other aspects of this small - but extremely busy - Mission! There is much to praise the Lord about, and much yet to be done. Over the course of my four months here at La Vida Mission, I am becoming more and more aware of the suffering and need all around us in the Navajo community. I have been told, first-hand, the heartbreaking stories of tragic losses among those we know in the surrounding Navajo community. I see prayer lists growing as our staff are made aware of Navajo people who are hurting deeply, many struggling with alcohol and drug addiction as they seek to numb the pain and stress of this life. Please continue pray for La Vida Mission and the

Navajo Nation. The need is truly great.  
Peace, Love & Blessings to Each of You,  
Kim

"And it shall come to pass That whoever calls on the name of the LORD Shall be saved. For in Mount Zion and in Jerusalem there shall be deliverance, As the LORD has said, Among the remnant whom the LORD calls." Joel 2:32

**Navajo News**

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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)

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**We are gaining ground!**

Hello Dear Brothers and Sisters!

The new tank has been delivered! AND, the construction crew is on site this week to connect the water lines! The final step for this project will happen as soon as D & R Tank will come to fill and sanitize the new 18,000 gallon water storage tank. By this time next month, all will be completed for this project.

PRAISE THE LORD! Many, many thanks go to you for financial and prayer support.

We do have one other, much smaller project on hand to be completed for the water system; re-design of the Community Water Hydrant to prevent cross contamination between water haulers and our system. We anticipate it to be completed by the end of July.

NM Environment Department's Compliance Officer was at La Vida Mission to inspect our water system on May 29, 2024. There remain 3 outstanding deficiencies from the 2021 Sanitary Survey (related to the new tank and the Community Water Hydrant) and a few items of concern for the new Survey, mostly related to the lack of screening over vents. Most of those concerns have been addressed by our maintenance team.



Here are the new totals for the project:

|                  |              |
|------------------|--------------|
| Total Donations: | \$203,804.82 |
| Expenses         | 195,212.07   |
| Balance          | 8,592.75     |

Thanks to everyone for their contributions, whether financial or prayers. We are almost there!  
Lee McIntosh



## La Vida Staff Summer Outreach Activity

Just very shortly before Jesus's ascension to heaven, He spoke these words and mandate to His disciples saying: **"But you will receive power when the Holy Spirit comes upon you, and you will be My witnesses in Jerusalem, and in all Judea and Samaria, and to the ends of the earth."** After He had said this, His disciples watched as He was taken up, and a cloud hid Him from their sight. (Acts 1:8,9)

Following Jesus and His Words, we decided to do our regular summer outreach activity, which all our staff participates in, from our "Jerusalem and Judea"-- the local communities around the Mission. We have set aside the whole day of Wednesday for going out to the community, doing house to house friendly visits, finding how we can help our neighbors, distributing "Walking with Jesus" and other books plus whatever food items we can take to the community, and inviting them to church and to Vacation Bible School the last week of July. Outreach programs still continue to happen in Crownpoint on Sabbath afternoons and on Tuesday evenings and some Sundays as well. This summer, we are planning to hold the Vacation Bible School on campus, a switch from what we've been doing the past several years of having it done in Crownpoint and its surrounding communities. We're also prepared to open our dorms to house children who live far from the Mission but are planning to attend VBS. This afternoon in Crownpoint, I was doing home visits and inviting children to VBS and a girl responded to me with a big smile when I asked her if she and her



brother want to be picked up or if they want to stay in the dorms during VBS week, and she said without hesitation, **"stay there"**. We are praying that the Lord will call children through this VBS to come to our school in the fall. Please join us in prayer for the Holy Spirit's guidance, blessing and leading in all these outreach activities.

– Dorie Panganiban

## Maintenance Manager Position Available

Responsibilities:  
 Maintenance of all Mission buildings.  
 Review maintenance requests and needs.  
 Plan a regular maintenance schedule for the mission.  
 Maintain: Mission buildings; structure, plumbing, heating/cooling, electrical, airstrip, roads, water systems, sewage system.  
 Check and maintain mission vehicles.  
 Record use of propane.  
 Keep shop and work areas clean.  
 Keep all tools and equipment operating properly.  
 Winterize Mission buildings.  
 Trash collection.  
 Obtain Commercial Drivers License.  
 Inspect work of non-Mission personnel's repairs and construction.  
 Assist visiting groups with Mission projects  
 Other duties as assigned.  
 Annual performance reviews will be conducted.

## 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, letters and Christmas gifts.
- Echo Food bank, Farmington, NM for produce and other food items.
- Neal Kelley & Sharing Ministry for donations of food and hygiene supplies..
- SASDAC Southern Asian Seventh Day Adventist Church mission group for organizing the maintenance supplies in the "arc", supplies in Ms. Claire's classroom and community supplies at the gym; for loading and hauling items to the dump, fixing the internet, and leading the Sabbath church program in La Vida & Crownpoint church.
- Anonymous for assorted natural remedies books.
- Joe Reavis for assorted canned goods and clothes.
- Pastor Tobin Savage for assorted toys & clothes.

## In Memory of

|                             |                               |
|-----------------------------|-------------------------------|
| George & Margaret Armstrong | by Lanny & Barbara Davis      |
| Bern Bliss                  | by Simon Elloway              |
| Peggy Douglas               | by Jack & Mary Wood           |
| Laurie Foxworthy            | by Pat Watts                  |
| Arnold & Steven Gerard      | by Marilyn Gerard             |
| Arloe Goley                 | by John Goley                 |
| Wayne Hyatt                 | by Lynette Hyatt              |
| Robert & Mary Lee           | by Lynette Hyatt              |
| Albert Lind                 | by Margaret Lind              |
| Art & Barry Lizer           | by Oradelle Lizer             |
| Bonnie Lloyd                | by Harry Lloyd                |
| Jose A. Lopez               | by Diane Lopez                |
| Walter Maier                | by Arliss Brooks              |
| Helen Peters Martin         | by David & Elizabeth Johnston |
| Larry McCoy                 | by Nancy McCoy-Wearner        |
| Brenda McDonald             | by Pat & Rhonda McDonald      |
| Robert Sammer               | by David & Maxine Smith       |
| Kenneth Smith               | by Lola Smith                 |

## In Honor of

Our Lord & Saviour Jesus Christ by Luis Caradonna

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



# Southern Asian SDA Church Mission Group Visits La Vida Mission

Slightly over seven and one half years ago, I was planning to teach at an orphanage in northeast India when a medical condition obstructed that path. Then Pastor Steve Gillham called and asked me to come to La Vida.

I know that I shouldn't really take it personally that God sent 20 people either born in India or first generation Indian-Americans to spend June 22-July 1 with me, I mean, us.

These mission trippers are members of the Southern Asian Seventh Day Adventist Church in Silver Spring, Maryland. They included a few high school students, a pastor and his wife, a director of Adventist Health Care, a third year nursing student, an auditor, and several IT specialists.

Visually, this group was stunning! The guys were very tall and dark, with sharply defined features. The young women were also lovely and loving.



One of the things that amazed me was learning about their backgrounds. These are children of high achievers. One of their jobs here? Digging through deep mud to uncover trash to take to the dump! Some of the group spent up to 10 hours a day working on the internet system. Others helped organize the maintenance storage area, supplies for our community outreach and/or helped out in the school.



We were also blessed by devotionals that they wrote and shared. Church was made joyful by their music and Sabbath School presentation.

We thank God for the week of joy, energy, and beauty that this group brought us.

- Claire James

