

# Navajo News



A Publication of La Vida Missions, Inc.  
*Bringing the Gospel of Jesus to the Navajo*

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## LVM School Opens for the School Year 2024-2025



Once again the Mission ground is filled with children's happy voices and laughter. Parents, with their children, came early on August 13 to officially register them for school. Included in the registration steps, after the submission and checking of all required documents for enrollment, were opportunities for the parents to sit down and visit with the school principal and the director of the Mission. On that same day, an orientation meeting for parents and students was conducted, led by Ms. Kim Ellis, La Vida Mission Director.

Currently, LVMS has eight students. There are several more who expressed their desire to come and join the school, so we are still waiting for them to come. This is common in this part of the Reservation. We will not know how many students we really have until two or three months have passed.



As early as this first month of school, LVMS is already planning for weekend school activities, educational and recreational trips, and some programs that will inspire our students, parents, and sponsors. To all our La Vida Mission supporters and donors, we thank all of you for continually committing to partner with us in providing these precious kids with Christian Education and leading them to Jesus. May the joy of sharing be the theme this year once again. To God be the glory!

– Cielo Domino, LVMS Teaching Principal



*Left: After reading a text about parrots and answering reading comprehension questions, Shalita and Josiah made a parrot craft.*

*Right: Music class is in session as our students learn to play the recorder.*



*Above left: Cooperative Games teach students how to work as a team by demonstrating cooperation, kindness, respect and the importance of taking turns. Above right: Students observed different objects under the microscope.*

*Right: After reading a book about David Livingstone, Drevin and D'Artagnan use a map to locate the different places he visited.*





## From the Director's Desk:

Warm Greetings to All,

After a very busy summer, La Vida Mission School is officially back in session for the 2024-2025 school year as of August 14. But not before a very eventful Pathfinder's Camporee in Gillette, Wyoming closed out the summer vacation. Our group left the La Vida Mission (LVM) campus in the wee hours of Sunday morning on August 5 for the almost 18-hour drive to Gillette, and returned at the crack of dawn the following Sunday, August 11. La Vida Mission's Camporee group had plenty of tales to tell, having endured torrential rains, wind and lightning during the first few days of the event. The worst of the weather occurred on Tuesday, August 6, causing cancellation of that evening's program and evacuation from tents into buildings for protection of the coming storm. Many campers' were displaced after finding their tents and campsites wrecked by the storm, but local churches and residents came to the rescue offering shelter, sleeping bags, tents, and more. Although our LVM campers were not displaced, their campsite and tents were affected, but they were able to mitigate and stay in place after the storm. Although very tired on their return, we heard stories of camaraderie throughout the ordeal, and joy in spite of it. We praise the Lord for this, and for their safe return just three days before the first day of school. For more details: <https://www.nadadventist.org/news/storm-interrupts-international-pathfinder-camporee-displaces-some-campers>

We started the new school year with a few staffing changes among our teaching staff. Our new Principal is Ms. Cielo Domino, who has graciously accepted this important position. In addition, Ms. Cielo has also assumed the duties of Head Teacher and lower grades teacher. A seasoned missionary and gifted teacher, Ms. Cielo joined LVM in June 2023 as our high school teacher, and has been a very welcome addition to the team. We are very grateful for her willingness to help wherever needed, and that with a gracious and humble spirit. We are also very blessed to have Ms. Glet France continuing as La Vida's middle school and music teacher after five years of service here. Ms. Glet is also a very gifted teacher and pianist, and we are so grateful for her dedication and kind spirit. Ms. Claire James transferred from lower grades teacher to tutor on the high school side where her gifts are greatly appreciated. A lifelong missionary, educator and living encyclopedia, Ms. Claire has served at La Vida as elementary teacher since 2017. We are so thankful to have such committed and gifted teachers!

We are excited to be called to host a special Town Meeting on September 28 at the behest of Dine Adventist Radio's (DAR) new Program Manager, Steven Pester. He is seeking to have input from the Navajo community about the broadcast, which is preparing to launch 24/7 programming this year. Please pray for this important outreach ministry and for many lives to be impacted to join God's Kingdom. (DAR website: <https://www.dineadventistradio.org>)

Peace, Love and Blessings to All,  
Kim

"For whosoever shall call upon the name of the Lord shall be saved. How then shall they call on him in whom they have not believed? And how shall they believe in him of whom they have not heard? And how shall they hear without a preacher? And how shall they preach, except they be sent? As it is written, How beautiful are the feet of them that preach the gospel of peace, and bring glad tidings of good things!"

~ Romans 10:13-15

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## LVM Water Project Report

Hello Brothers and Sisters in Christ!

I have outstanding news! We are operating on the new tank! Water is flowing where it should. We are so blessed and thankful for all the support each of you gave to the Water Project.

We have a couple of small tasks to accomplish yet, but the major project is done. The Maintenance Crew designed and installed an air-gap assembly to our Community Hydrant where our neighbors come for water. I was impressed by the ingenious design that will prevent cross-contamination between water haulers and our water system. We still are waiting for instructions on how to test our water system for the infiltration of surface water. I anticipate totally isolating the old water storage tank from the new tank as soon as possible. Also, we have drain line buried deeply beside our guest house that will need to be dug up and repaired. I'm not sure at this point if we will need to rent a backhoe to complete the job.

Here are the latest Water Project Totals: Total Income:\$211,755; Expense: \$195,238; Balance on hand: \$16,517. D & R Tank is owed roughly \$9,000.

Again, we are so deeply grateful for the many prayers and donations that has made this project successful. GOD BLESS EACH OF YOU!

- Lee McInstosh



### Current Financial Needs and Prayer Requests

Please consider a donation of any size as the Lord impresses.

**Operations Expense:** Due to low donations this summer, we are having to dip into our reserves to cover normal expenses. In August we received less than half the amount that was needed. School has started and winter is on the way, as a result expenses will increase. We make every effort to keep these under control, burning the wood stoves to reduce the cost of propane and doing our best to economize, but we still need additional income to keep up to date with necessary expenditures. We know that God will provide and we want to be good stewards of what He has blessed us with. Donations of any size are appreciated as God has always multiplied every donation to His honor and glory. **And please pray that God will strengthen and guide us as we follow Him and that His will continues to be done here, on His mission.**

**Tractor (\$40,000):** Our prior tractor broke down and a rugged tractor is critical to maintaining the 2.5 mile dirt road to campus as well as the on-campus dirt roads. Heavy rains/flash floods carve gullies, like small rivers, across the roadways and down the hills and wash out the roads and create areas of deep mud and quicksand-like conditions. Staff and community members get stuck and/or stranded. We have an offer to purchase a brand new 2022 or 2023 tractor, 65 HP, 4WD, Model 2606H Massey-Ferguson tractor. This tractor is completely compatible with the accessories from our old tractor, which is an ideal situation.

### Notes from the Fix It Shop

Days have been getting a bit cooler so the maintenance crew is working to keep coolers running for those warm afternoons while getting furnaces ready for the upcoming season. Busy, busy!

Seems there is always a mad dash is getting ready for the dorms and the school to be open. Dorms that have been closed for summer have to be cleaned and organized a bit. The school looks great with every book in place. Vehicles are being ushered into town for a looksee, making sure all is safe for the children. And, just when you think all is well...well, it isn't. There's a toilet that needs repair, desks to be adjusted and storm doors to be installed. Will it all get done?? Sure! And we are all happy to hear the laughter of little children. School is in session!  
-Lee McIntosh

### *In Memory of*

- |   |                               |
|---|-------------------------------|
| George & Margaret Armstrong                           | by Lanny & Barbara Davis      |
| Bern Bliss  | by Simon Elloway              |
| Florence Mortensen Blanchard                          | by David & Elizabeth Johnston |
| Pastor Stephen Gillham                                | by Carol Gillham              |
| Arloene Goley   | by John Goley                 |
| Wayne Hyatt   | by Lynette Hyatt              |
| Robert & Mary Lee                                     | by Lynette Hyatt              |
| Art & Barry Lizer                                     | by Oradelle Lizer             |
| Jose A. Lopez   | by Diane Lopez                |
| Larry McCoy   | by Nancy McCoy-Wearner        |
| Brenda McDonald                                       | by Pat & Rhonda McDonald      |
| Kenneth Smith   | by Lola Smith                 |
| Fleta Olive & Lydia Wood                              | by Mr. & Mrs. Jack Wood       |
| Those that went before me,<br>my indigenous ancestors | by Richard Jopling            |

### *In Honor of*

- |   |                    |
|---|--------------------|
| Bret (Happy Birthday)                                 | by Jackie Small    |
| David (Happy Birthday)                                | by Jackie Small    |
| Wayne Hyatt   | by Lynette Hyatt   |
| Megan (Happy Birthday)                                | by Jackie Small    |
| Robert & Mary Lee                                     | by Lynette Hyatt   |
| Those that went before me,<br>my indigenous ancestors | by Richard Jopling |

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

### Positions Available:

Dear Reader –

Is the Lord touching your heart to step into full-time missions? Do you know someone who might be interested in serving the Navajo Nation here at La Vida? We always need committed, self-sacrificing, mission-minded individuals to be a part of La Vida Mission. Please give us a call to find out more about positions we have available.

If you have any questions or would like to discuss the possibilities, please call us at 505-786-5539. Please leave a message if no one answers the phone as we all have multiple duties and are not always available at the office. Or, if you prefer, you can mail a letter of inquiry to PO Box 3308, Farmington, NM 87499.

### 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 bringing 1700 pounds of produce to the mission. We are happy to share our abundance with our community.
- John Harold for 5 cases of Olathe Sweet Sweet Corn, enjoyed by students and staff alike!
- Many, many donors who have prayed and donated funds to make this water project a reality. It has been a long road but you have encouraged us when it looked bleak and strengthened us when it was hard. This water tank supplies not only our staff and school but also our community. The well is a blessing from God here in this very dry land and we share it freely with those who need it. Because of your generosity, we can continue to share and we thank God for each of you as well as for His blessings.

# LVM Pathfinders At the 2024 International Pathfinders Camporee

As early as 3 o'clock in the morning of Monday, August 5, 2024, while everybody on campus was still sleeping and snoring, a group of six Pathfinders Staff and five Junior Pathfinders left the Mission campus and braced themselves for the almost eighteen hours travel to Gillette, WY to join the other sixty thousand Pathfinders and staff from all over the world in the once-in-five years International Pathfinders Camporee. It was a very memorable camping experience for all of us. The almost thirty six hours travel round trip was all worth it. We especially want to thank Ms. Emily and Mr. VJ for driving the whole distance. It was a sight to behold, thousands of tents of happy and excited campers from many states and countries. Most of us were first-timers and also the first time to sleep in a tent for a week, especially the students. The delegates of La Vida Mission were 6 staff (Beth, VJ, Emily, Cielo, Danita & Glet) & 5 students (Reyes, Leanna, Josiah, Drevin & Shalita).



The "fun" began the first night we got there from our eighteen hour trip. We thought we would be able to rest and be refreshed for the next day's activities but we were awakened at three o'clock in the morning by heavy rain so we all got up to secure all our stuff, most especially the tents of our students. We thank God that despite the heavy rains, the kids didn't get wet, they didn't even wake up and were happily up the following morning like nothing happened the previous night. The following day another weather forecast of an even bigger thunderstorm, heavier rain and stronger wind made the camporee leadership cancel the first night's activity. Everyone evacuated to the Cam-plex facilities for the safety of all as it was projected to be worse than the previous day. We didn't expect this but I thank God for my group because they never complained and they just followed whatever announcements and instructions they were given. Some programs were canceled on that day but we never lost hope that we would still be able to enjoy our stay at the camporee. During the mass evacuation, our group prayed that the storm would stop and that we all would be safe. We praise and thank God because after a few hours, the storm stopped and we were able to go back to our respective tents. And amazing of all amazing things, after the storm, we all saw a huge double rainbow reminding us of God's Beautiful Promise—strengthening the impact of the 2024 Camporee Theme, "Believe the Promise". So even though our tents got wet, we were still able to smile and be grateful as we "believe the promise" that the Lord will never leave us nor forsake us. In the middle of the storms, He was with us and after the storms there will always be a rainbow to remind us of this. Despite the bad weather conditions for almost our whole stay in the Camporee, we enjoyed every bit of it, as we've met new people, experienced different things, made new memories, had a blast, and most importantly, we were spiritually refreshed and energized by the nightly meetings of Bible preaching and a beautiful reenactment of the story of Moses, connecting it to the theme "Believe the Promise". As a bonus, we were also able to go to the Rockpile Museum, Campbell, County Planetarium, experience horse riding, trading pins, attending Pathfinder honors, seeing the history of world Pathfinder leaders and many other fun and interesting events.



It was truly an exciting camporee filled with adventure, gratitude and God's leading and blessings; another unforgettable experience to be with Pathfinders from around the world; truly a testimony of God's goodness and countless providences. Please continue to pray for our precious Pathfinders as they continue to seek and find the way to Jesus.

– Ms. Beth Fugoso-Panganiban, La Vida Mission Warriors Pathfinder Director

