

Navajo News



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Bringing the Gospel of Jesus to the Navajo

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Celebrating the Milestones of the Class 2024



As another academic year draws to a close, we gathered and celebrated the remarkable milestone of class 2024. On May 23, 2024, La Vida Mission School had its Promotion and Graduation Program held at La Vida Mission Church. During the first part of the program, Ms. Cielo, the high school head teacher, warmly welcomed the attendees. The K-4 class, led by Ms. Claire James, recited Ecclesiastes 12:1,13 and the La Vida Mission School Choir sang "We Are More Than Conquerors". Each student, from elementary to high school, received their certificates and special awards to acknowledge their achievements this school year. Ms. Lee McIntosh (Secretary, LVM Board), Ms. Kimberly Ellis (Director, La Vida Mission), Ms. Dorie Panganiban (Vice President, LVM Board) and Dr. Danny Poblete (Former Principal, La Vida Mission), greeted the students as they received their respective awards on stage. Parents and guardians were also present to accompany their children in this celebration.

Following the first part of the program, the candidates for promotion and graduation marched down the aisle as they embarked on their completion rites. Leanna, Reyes and Talise had completed their elementary years and were promoted to high school. This year, we gladly announced that 5 high school students successfully completed their GED requirements and finished high school: Marcella, Damian, Damiana, Demetrius, and Isiaha. They were confirmed graduates and received their certificates, diplomas and medals.

Ms. Kimberly Ellis, the graduation speaker, commenced her speech with verses from Prov. 9: 9-10, "Give instruction to a wise man, and he will be still wiser; teach a just man, and he will increase in learning. The fear of the Lord is the beginning of wisdom, and the knowledge of the Holy One is understanding" and Job 22:21, "Now acquaint yourself with Him, and be at peace; thereby good will come to you." She reminded the students that the best and wisest choice one can make each and every day is to know and follow Jesus, our Creator, Savior, the only One who has the power and gift of eternal and abundant life. The choices that we make have the power, little by little, to build upon the current foundations of our life. Each wise choice will build up and will lead to the next milestones for our good. After the graduation program, we all headed to the gym for the reception and enjoyed the sumptuous meal prepared by our staff, parents and students.

Ultimately, we praise the Almighty God for guiding our students, parents, teachers and staff this school year. We appreciate everyone's efforts to make sure that the closing program would be a success. Once again, congratulations, graduates! May God's loving light guide you wherever you go.

- Ms Glet

Pictures continue on pages 3 and 4

Five High School Students Graduate from LVMC+EEP

La Vida Mission Core+ Enhanced Education High School Program (LVMC+EEP) is very pleased to share with you the good news that five students successfully graduated on May 23, 2024. All the five students passed the core subjects in GED (Reasoning through Language Arts – English, Mathematics, Science, and Social Studies). Each of the graduates received the New Mexico High School equivalency credential from the New Mexico Higher Education Department signed by the Cabinet Secretary, Dr. Stephanie M. Rodriguez. The students carry the high school equivalency transcript which is authorized by Dr. Katya Backhaus, HSE Administrator for the State of New Mexico. Dr. Backhaus is a great supporter of the LVMC+EEP. She facilitated the vouchers for free practice and official tests. That was a big help for La Vida Mission.

May this achievement of La Vida Mission School serve as an encouragement to parents out there to send their children to our school this coming school year, 2024-2025. With open hearts and arms, our dedicated and loving teachers are waiting for your children.

To our sponsors, donors, friends: La Vida Mission is very thankful for all your financial support, gifts, and donations. Your partnership with us is highly appreciated. La Vida Mission's success is YOUR success. Thank you!

-Ms. Cielo





From the Director's Desk:

Warm Greetings to Everyone,

Having reached the end of the school year and participated in the graduation ceremony for the first time, it was truly a blessing. The La Vida Mission family did a wonderful job preparing, planning, and decorating. The Church was packed with friends, relatives, teachers, students and staff. Our students shined! Each of the graduating students prepared and delivered a special address, and each message was special, indeed - very thoughtful, meaningful messages. Wonderful music scores were performed by the entire school, a beautifully arranged video was shown featuring all of the graduates (expertly put together by VJ Panganiban), and a lovely reception was held where staff, parents and loved ones all pitched in to make it a success.

Summer will be full of projects as we prepare for the 2024-2025 school year. In addition to visits from various groups, we will conduct annual "Spring" cleaning throughout the campus, jump back into greenhouse revamping, and work on enhancements to our school program. Speaking of visitors, I want to give a huge and thankful shout-out to our regular and honored guests, the Paleontologist team, who always bless us with their cheerful presence and donations of food, appliances and even housecleaning and swamp-cooler mitigation. Thank you, Paleontologist Family!

In closing, my thoughts transition from the milestone of school graduation to the milestones being reached in these last days of earth's history. Jesus gave us signs to look for, telling us that when certain things started ramping up, that we should start looking up "...for your redemption draws nigh" (Luke 21:25-28). There is still so much work to be done, and Jesus told us to pray for laborers, because the harvest is plentiful, but the laborers are few (Matthew 9:37-38). Has the Lord been speaking to your heart to consider stepping into fulltime missions? If so, please give us a call or send us a note. It may be that He has a place for you here at La Vida Mission. Wherever the Lord has you stationed at this moment in time, we thank you for your continued prayers and donations as the Lord impresses.

Peace, Love & Blessings to Each of You,
Ms. Kim

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"Therefore if they say to you, 'Look, He is in the desert!' do not go out; or 'Look, He is in the inner rooms!' do not believe it. For as the lightning comes from the east and flashes to the west, so also will the coming of the Son of Man be. Mathew 24:26-27

Well, now we wait...

Hello Dear Brothers and Sisters!

By today I had firmly believed our new water tank would be installed. Unfortunately, we are in a waiting pattern as D & R Tank and File Construction are still waiting for a few parts to arrive. I wish I could tell you when that will occur.

The new foundation for the tank is complete, but the connecting water lines are still waiting to be laid. D & R Tank has our new tank loaded and ready to be delivered.

What I do know is that the Lord is in command of this project and that it will be completed in HIS perfect timing.

La Vida is scheduled to have a new Sanitary Survey completed by the NM Environment Department on May 29, 2024. I was in great hopes our new tank would have been installed and running. Our new director, Kim Ellis, Bob Blair, our Water Utility Operator and I will be on site for the inspection. Much work has been completed to ready us for the inspection and thanks are due to Junior Juan and Bob Blair for their help in getting things spruced up.

Thank you is not enough to say to those who have contributed to this project, but THANK YOU anyway. We are close to being completed. Without your donations, we would not have accomplished so very much.

Lee McIntosh

Financial information is as follows:

- 1). Total Donations: \$201,015
- 2). Expenses to Date: \$111,425 (Engineer, 1/2 Tank, 1/2 Foundation and Geotechnical Reports)
- 3). Current Balance on hand: \$89,589
- 4). Outstanding Balances (Current Balances Due):
 - a). Remainder of Foundation (to D& R Tank)..... \$48,475
 - b). Remainder of tank (to D&R Tank)..... \$44,173
 - c). Estimate of re-construction of Community Hydrant: \$5,000

Total.....\$97,648



8th Grade and High School Graduates

Clockwise from top left: (8th grade) Talise, Reyes, Leanna, (High School) Demetrius, Damian, Natavia (Prospective Summer Graduate), Damiana, Isiaha. (Unfortunately Marcella was unable to attend)

Bottom left: LaVida staff, visitors and family members enjoying the graduation celebration meal.



In Memory of

George & Margaret Armstrong
Bern Bliss
Janet Costew
Peggy Douglas
Steve Gillham
Arloe Goley
Wayne Hyatt
Robert & Mary Lee
Albert Lind
Art & Barry Lizer
Helen Peters Martin
Larry McCoy
Brenda McDonald
Glen & Karen Oberkramer,
Fleta Oliver
Jerry Patton
Nobert Sammer
Katie Jo Schwinn
Heather-Dawn Small
Emily Smith
Kenneth Smith
Pam White
Albert Willis Jr. & Albert Willis III
Lydia Wood

by Lanny & Barbara Davis
by Simon Elloway
by Robert Costew
by Jack & Mary Wood
by Ed Bennett
by John Goley
by Lynette Hyatt
by Lynette Hyatt
by Margaret Lind
by Oradelle Lizer
by David E. Johnston
by Nancy McCoy-Wearner
by Pat & Rhonda McDonald
by Randall Oberkramer
by Jackie Small
by James & Shirley Turner
by Maxine Smith
by Karl Schwinn
by Ardis Stenbakken
by Ramona McCurdy
by Lola May Smith
by Arthur & Jeanette Fry
by Betty Willis
by Jackie Small

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!

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..

•**Anonymous** for assorted clinic supplies & natural remedy books.

•**Elizabeth Willis** for crafts and assorted school supplies.

•**Joe Reavis** for assorted canned goods.

Our Time at Navajo Campmeeting in Holbrook, AZ

My husband and I went to Holbrook, Arizona for the first time to a Navajo camp meeting with our La Vida staff friends, VJ & Beth Panganiban, who invited us to join them. La Vida Mission Director, Kim Ellis, also attended, arriving on Sabbath and staying overnight.

The camp meeting was held at the Holbrook Indian School which is an Adventist Navajo boarding school in Arizona. It was a very beautiful campus and very welcoming to us. Our first-time experience at the Camp Meeting was a delight. We had our first meeting at 6:30 p.m., Friday, May 24, 2024, after our arrival. The speaker was introduced, his name was Bill Payne. He taught us about our spiritual visions and what they are and how we need to prepare ourselves for our journey God will send us on. It was very motivational and uplifting. After the meeting they had a campfire for those who would like to hear more about God's Word and also get to know one another. Singing together with other campers was a very good time that night.

The next morning, we went to Early Devotion at 7 a.m. It was a very beautiful Sabbath morning with everyone sitting together and encouraging one another with Bible Scriptures and comforting words to start our Sabbath day. We had our breakfast at 7:30 a.m. which, I'd like to say, was very delicious and filling. Thank you to those who provided the food. After breakfast we went back to our wonderful rooms provided for us for the weekend and put on our best clothes for Sabbath school. The Sabbath school started out with songs. The music was amazing, the singers were in perfect harmony of praise and worship. Then we studied the booklet "Great Controversy" with the whole week lesson.



It was a panel discussion with five speakers to explain the booklet, breaking it down for us to understand fully. The Sabbath message and sermon was given by Bill Payne, who taught us about Infinite wisdom and the perfect order that is the result of its work, and how we can all work in harmony together to show God's work for others and ourselves all as one. The entire Sabbath service was done with good faith, praise and prayers. I felt that the entire community was very welcoming and loving. The members of the camp meeting came up to us and introduced themselves. They were very polite and helpful.

Thank you to the Holbrook camp meeting organizers for having us and making the experience a huge blessing. The beautiful community has done a great job and we will be returning to the next camp meeting. May God bless you all abundantly.

— by Ms. Danita Ray Juan, wife of Harrison Juan Jr., a Navajo staff of La Vida Mission.

More graduation day pictures (clockwise from top left): Opening ceremony, choir singing, Ms. Glet and her class, Ms. Claire and her class and Ms. Kim addressing the graduates.

