

Navajo News



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Bringing the Gospel of Jesus to the Navajo

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IT'S A HAPPENING THING!

Hello Dear Brothers and Sisters!

I have great news to share: Work has begun on the foundation for our new water storage tank. Work began April 8, 2024. Since that date, the construction crew has been on site to complete the foundation. The concentric bedding ring has been reinforced with rebar. Before the concrete was actually poured, the earth was compacted and tested for the level of moisture and compaction. The center of the foundation site has been surrounded by a labyrinth of additional rebar for added strength. Concrete has been poured over the bedding ring and is waiting to be completely cured. Inlets and outlets are in place waiting to be connected to the piping from the well and to the distribution pipes. By the time you read this, the tank itself will be in place and final connections made.

The new tank will have new valves, and a concrete collar. Pressure tests and disinfection will be completed prior to its use. Also, a new non-freeze hydrant will be installed close to the new tank to help with draining the tank as needed. The crew also embedded a rock chase that will prevent erosion from the west side of the tank.

We are so excited that the new tank will be operational within the month. None of this would have been possible without you, our generous donors!

The Mission is still working to complete the re-construction of the Community Water Hydrant. The re-construction of the hydrant will be based on NM ENV Department's specifications to include an adequate air gap to prevent cross contamination between the hydrant and the water hauler.

After the new tank is in place, sanitized and inspected, a water sample will be taken to determine if our ground water is being influenced by surface water, a condition of the 2021 Sanitary Survey.



Financial information is as follows:

- 1). Total Donations: \$190,894
 - 2). Expenses to Date: \$111,425 (Engineer, 1/2 Tank, 1/2 Foundation and Geotechnical Reports)
 - 3). Current Balance on hand: \$79,468
 - 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

Again, I cannot express La Vida Mission's gratefulness to those who have donated and prayed for this huge project. Water is Life. Together, we will be able to continue to provide safe, clean water to our neighbors (and ourselves). Praise the Lord!

Lee McIntosh

From the Director's Desk:

Warm Greetings to everyone reading this message!

April was another very busy month and ended with La Vida Mission (LVM) Board meeting on April 28. It was a great blessing to meet more of the board members and to be a part of something bigger than one's self, each member serving with the unified goal of spreading the Gospel to the Navajo Nation through La Vida Mission's outreach efforts to that end. Board member, Neal Kelley, showered us with a generous donation of produce and other necessary items on arrival that Friday afternoon (April 26), and the La Vida team jumped in to help offload and put away the items. Board member, Pastor Charlie Whitehorse, delivered a thought-provoking and inspiring message about community outreach on Sabbath. Two Bible studies were set up immediately as a result of that message. And I am so happy to have made a wonderful connection with two very committed local Navajo Christian ladies who have been sincerely praying for La Vida Mission, our students, staff and the Navajo community. We have resolved to band together on a weekly basis to pray and seek the Lord's guidance, wisdom and power in advancement of His Kingdom in our small corner of the world. It was also a huge blessing to oversee the LVM School Operations Committee on April 26. Many exciting plans were made for fund raising, field trips and school curriculum enhancements. La Vida Mission School's graduation ceremony is just around the corner as I type. On Thursday, May 23, we will see nine of our students graduate. "This will be the largest graduating class of the La Vida Mission School I have seen since my arrival in 2007," per Dorie Panganiban, who is the Vice President of the LVM Board, Office Manager extraordinaire, and the supervisor of the Cafeteria and Dorms here at the Mission. The graduating students have been very excited to get their gowns and look forward to their big day!

In closing, the water tank project is moving along swiftly, and we are so thankful to the Lord and blessed by the generosity of our donors who have funded this project which was mandated by the State of New Mexico. Providing free potable water to the surrounding Navajo community is a huge and vital part of La Vida Mission's outreach. It is very common in this area to not have running water and electricity. We just need \$18,000 more to be able to cover all of the remaining expenses involved, and are praying for more hearts to be stirred to help us as we near the finish line. The Lord has gotten us this far, and we are trusting Him to see everything through. Many thanks to each of you for your prayers and support.

May God Richly Bless You and Yours.

Kim

"I do not pray for these alone, but also for those who will believe in Me through their word; that they all may be one, as You, Father, are in Me, and I in You; that they also may be one in Us, that the world may believe that You sent Me." ~ John 17:20-21

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La Vida Mission, a supporting ministry
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serves the Eastern Navajo Nation. It
operates a K-12 Boarding school for Na-
vajo children, clinic, water/mail/clothing
services and an evangelism outreach
for the Navajo community. The mission
is located off Highway 371, 55 miles
north of I-40, just south of mile post #56,
or 50 miles south of Farmington, New
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Reaching Out the Jesus Way

We have always read and used this quotation: "Christ's method alone will give true success in reaching the people. The Savior mingled with people as one who desired their good. He showed sympathy for them, ministered to their needs, and won their confidence. Then He invited them, 'Follow Me.' We need to come close to the people by personal effort. If we would give less time to sermonizing and more time to personal ministry, greater results would be seen. The poor are to be relieved, the sick cared for, the sorrowing and the bereaved comforted, the ignorant instructed, the inexperienced counseled. We are to weep with those who weep and to rejoice with those who rejoice. Accompanied by the power of persuasion, the power of prayer, the power of the love of God, this work will not, cannot, be without fruit." Ministry of Healing 73.4-5

The La Vida Mission outreach department tries by God's help to follow Jesus's way of reaching out to the community. Below are photos of just some of the different outreach ministries we have tried at the Mission. Please join us as we pray that these initiatives will not be without fruit for the kingdom.



Top left: Bible
seminar and
baptisms.

Right: Community
Clinic Day



Above: Annual Christmas feast and gift-giving for
our neighbors and beyond.



(Pictures continued on page 4)

La Vida Mission Board of Directors Convened for Spring Meeting

The last weekend of April was extra busy but special at La Vida Mission because it was time for its Board of Directors' Spring Board meeting. As early as Friday afternoon/evening, four Board members arrived on campus for varied reasons: Neal Kelley came from Montrose, Colorado with a truck load of produce donations and groceries from the Sharing Ministries Food Bank for our cafeteria and mission use. We thank Neal's faithful dedication and commitment to doing that every time he comes to La Vida Mission. It blessed the whole mission and the community tremendously. Karl Schwinn and Lee McIntosh also arrived to look at the progress of the water system and the new water tank project that has been going on onsite for almost three weeks now. What a blessing their knowledge and expertise on this area of mission work is. Another board member who pulled in to the guest house last that night was Pastor Charlie Whitehorse with his son. He preached on Sabbath in English and Navajo both in La Vida Mission and in Crownpoint to the delight of our local people who love to hear the Word of God preached in their native tongue.



Pastor Charlie Whitehorse



Dr. Robert Gardner

The Spring Board meeting started at ten in the morning, Sunday, April 28th. Annette Williams, our Chairman of the Board, was not able to make it so she delegated Dr. Robert Gardner, our Board President, to preside over the meeting. But some unexpected incident/accident on I-40 made him go back to Albuquerque to take Hwy 550 instead and that delayed his trip for over two hours. Because the La Vida By-laws provision allows the Vice-President to preside over the meeting when both the Chairman and President of the Board are not present, the meeting went ahead with LVM Board Vice-President, Dorie Panganiban, presiding. Thank God for guiding the traffic and allowing Dr. Gardner to arrive safely at the meeting by noon and he was able to preside over the rest of the board meeting, especially over some important and sensitive issues. Matters related to the Mission's safety and security, the ministry's website, the future of La Vida Mission's operation, all the departments' reports, amendment to the Staff and School Handbooks and By-laws were some of the important agenda items discussed and acted upon accordingly. The meeting finally ended at four in the afternoon with everybody in good spirits and united in prayers for the continued progress of La Vida Mission, "God's mission field in your backyard". And before I forget, another highlight of the meeting was the election of a new Board Secretary in the person of Lee McIntosh, to replace Vicky Pioche, who slept and rested in Jesus last February 2024. Please join us in prayer for our Mission leadership as they guide and direct the work of God as a whole, both at the mission and the surrounding communities.

— Dorie Panganiban, LVM Board Vice-President



Top: Neal Kelly
Center: Karl Schwinn
Bottom: Lee McIntosh

In Memory of

George & Margaret Armstrong
Lita Castillo
Arloe Goley
Marge Gotshall
Wayne Hyatt
Robert & Orlena Kunau
Robert & Mary Lee
Albert Lind
Art & Barry Lizer
Jose Lopez
James Maxwell
Larry McCoy
Brenda McDonald
Fleta Oliver
Vicky Pioche
Vicky Pioche
Vicky Pioche
Robert Sammer
James & Katherine Small
Kenneth Smith
Lydia Wood

by Lanny & Barbara Davis
by Emilio & Sal Fariaz
by John Goley
by David Johnston
by Lynette Hyatt
by Jackie Small
by Lynette Hyatt
by Margaret Lind
by Oradelle Lizer
by Diane Lopez
by Ann Maxwell
by Nancy McCoy-Wearner
by Pat & Rhonda McDonald
by Mr. & Mrs. Jack Wood
by Mike & Linda Lamb
by Moses Sosigian
by John & Robin Korponay
by David & Maxine Smith
by Jackie Small
by Lola Smith
by Mr. & Mrs. Jack Wood

In Honor of

Kristi White's Birthday

by Grandma Pauline White

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..

•**Sherman Moeller, Ms. Jennifer and the Paleontologists** for assorted fruit, groceries, dryer, and for the LVM students field trip.

•**Elizabeth Willis** for crafts, feathers

Woodworking Class Trip to Ramah

La Vida Mission believes that instructing young people to engage in manual labor is part of the duties of the school. Aside from intellectual training, the students should learn to do manual labor so they will be prepared to obtain a livelihood and to develop into a better person.

Pastor Tobin Savage, the teacher in Industrial Arts, in consultation with La Vida Mission administration, scheduled the high school students and teachers for a trip to his place in Ramah, New Mexico on March 28-31 and let the students experience working with machines used for woodworking. Both the students and the teachers enjoyed doing projects like belt hooks, sanding blocks, and "treasure" boxes. They did not mind being covered in sawdust and working even at night. It was so much fun learning the different types of wood, cutting machines, and the different tools. The smell, color, and texture of the cedar boxes they created during those three days in the shop gave them an unforgettable experience.



Another thing La Vida Mission high school students enjoyed was attending the Sabbath services at Grants Seventh-day Adventist Church. The group sang "At the Cross" in English and in Navajo during the Divine Worship. After church, they were treated to a sumptuous meal. The instant favorite food was the spicy Mexican corn dish.

The hike to the waterfall, cliffside trail, and El Morro made the trip complete. God's creation is truly wonderful. These three places have their own astonishing beauty.

Saturday night was very special. Natavia Harrison, a 12th grade student, was baptized by Pastor Tobin. It was chilly coming out from the warm Jacuzzi, but Natavia braved it all. Despite the cold breeze, every heart was warm feeling the presence of the Holy Spirit and the joy of one soul accepting Jesus as Lord and Savior, and affirming that choice through baptism.

The whole trip was blessed with good weather. Seeing everyone, students and teachers alike, with their finished projects wrapped in cloths so as not to expose their cedar boxes to the sun and to keep the pinkish color, was a sight to behold. All the experiences were like Gorilla glue that bonded them to a deeper brotherly/sisterly relationship. Truly it was a meaningful time spent with each other.

By Cielo Domino



Pictures continued from Page 2



*Above: Summer youth health education program.
Above right: Community services and work.
Lower right: Home visitation with Bible study and child evangelism.*

Above: Community health education and health expo.