

Navajo News



A Publication of La Vida Missions, Inc.

Bringing the Gospel of Jesus to the Navajo

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Thank You to Our Conference Churches!

Mike and Cathy Kissner made their annual drive to many churches in the Rocky Mountain Conference, picking up a U-Haul truck load of donations collected for La Vida Mission and our community. This is a blessing that is beyond words; food, cleaning supplies, paper products, office and school supplies, furniture and many other items are collected and delivered. Without these yearly donations, we would struggle to make ends meet. We always stop and pray before the Kissners leave as we are thankful to God as well as to each individual who contributed.



Sabbath Celebration with Rio Rancho SDA Church

"Your students did really well. Expect another invitation soon"; "So when are you coming back for the 2nd part of the kids' sermon?"; "I hope it's really soon"; "Yes, we can do it this afternoon". These are some of the comments of some church members at Rio Rancho Seventh-day Adventist Church where our students and staff visited Sabbath, November 16, 2024. It was a very beautiful and memorable Sabbath because this was the first time during our church visitation program when our students preached and delivered the sermon during Church Service. Our teen preachers were Drevin Yazzie, an 8th grade student, D'artagnan Smith, another 8th grade student and his younger sister Jasmine Smith, a 7th grade student. They preached on the "Message of the Sanctuary". A hard subject, I thought, for children to preach so I told our health and outreach director, Mr. VJ Panganiban who prepared the sermon for them and coached/trained them on public speaking. I even volunteered to write a simpler, lighter subject message for the teen preachers but VJ assured me that any message can be preached and understood by all age groups. So I said OK with a request to please send me the script. When I read the sermon, I was touched and blessed by its simple and practical presentation. Everybody who heard the sermon commented that they were blessed especially that the kids were able to deliver it very well and in a way that can be understood by both children and adults.

Our students/school choir provided the music for the whole church service. Ms. Glet Franche, our Music Teacher and Choir Director has trained our students well. They sang and played very well. The recorder and tone chimes were freshly donated by Pueblo SDA Church/School and delivered to the Mission by Cathy and Pastor Mike Kissner last November 6 when they came for their Annual Donation Drive to La Vida Mission. What a blessing indeed!

We are grateful to Dr. Robert Gardner, our wonderful LVM Board President and his very supportive wife, Ms. Kimone, who facilitated our visit to Rio Rancho church. La Vida students and staff enjoyed the gracious accommodation and hospitality afforded to our group by all the church members and the bountiful lunch they served to all of us. A staff commented, "I love that Church, they are very warm and truly welcoming" while another said, "and they don't mind if the service exceeds the time, they were very attentive and remained very engaged till the end".

We left Rio Rancho truly blessed spiritually, emotionally, and physically. On our way back to the Mission, we stopped at the house of a lovely couple, Daniel and Sonia Cervantes of Rio Grande Church, to pick up their church's generous donations of health and hygiene stuff, groceries and assorted goodies for the Mission. God is indeed very good and worthy to be praised. We can only sing, "Praise HIM from whom all blessings flow".

— Ms. Dorie



From the Director's Desk:

Warm Greetings Dear Reader!

Have I mentioned that La Vida Mission is a very busy place?! Our newsletter each month gives some idea, but we can only fit in so much. Relative to all there is to oversee and keep up with, our core staff of 16 is definitely stretched, each one wearing many hats and rising to the occasion to help as needed. When staff get sick or need to travel, their duties must be covered. At this time, we are in great need of committed SDA Christians to fill two critical positions: Maintenance Manager and Bookkeeper (see sidebar on page 3).

In her article from the Fix-It Shop, Ms. Lee mentions our vehicles. We really need to replace several of them. One of our vans died on us last month and is gone. The remaining passenger vans are holding out by God's grace, but are very worn out. The 4-Runner seems to be okay at the moment, but has a history of suddenly shutting down while driving. If anyone out there reading this is impressed, we would welcome donations towards replacing our fleet, whether monetary or actual vehicles. Due to the rugged terrain and bouts of extreme weather (rain = mud, and winter = snow, ice and mud), we definitely need at least 1 or 2 reliable 4-wheel drive vehicles.

In addition, monetary donations tend to drop over the spring and summer months, and our reserves are in need of replenishment. If you are able to send a little extra over the holiday season, we would be most grateful. In addition to vehicles, food, supplies, maintenance and facilities, we have regular requests for assistance among the Navajo community whom we serve. Gas to travel for coal, wood, medical appointments, help fixing their homes, help replenishing propane, etc. 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 support!

Huge thanks to each of you for your prayers and support of La Vida Mission.

May God Richly Bless You

Kim

"Beloved, do not think it strange concerning the fiery trial which is to try you, as though some strange thing happened to you; but rejoice to the extent that you partake of Christ's sufferings, that when His glory is revealed, you may also be glad with exceeding joy."
~ 1 Peter 4:12-13

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Notes from the Fix-it Shop

Hello Dear Brothers and Sisters!

One of the greatest things is to help others in need. La Vida Mission has an outstanding Outreach Program and we are blessed to be a part of that. La Vida gives away some 3 million gallons of clean water a year. You helped that continue to happen with your prayers and donations to the Water Project.

The Rocky Mountain Donation Truck driven by Mike and Cathy Kissner arrived recently with donated items from around the Conference that helps not only La Vida but also our neighbors with food and household items. Our staff is setting up the gym so we can give away some of what we were blessed with.

Members of the Community, our neighbors, are coming to us with needs: to repair a broken door frame, to haul coal, for Bible study... That's part of why we are here.

Yes, there are broken things here. Our vehicles don't always start and they are old, but they get us there for the students to take part in church services near us. When Mission Groups come here, we are helped with projects that we can't seem to have time for and we are so grateful.

Now that most of our outside projects are completed, we are looking inside buildings to replace old sinks that leak, replacing bulbs inside exit signs, stormproofing doors. We will be getting a large load of firewood soon to augment our propane.

I am wrapping up our Water Project with final reports to the NM Environment Department. That new water tank stands tall and is filled with 18,000 gallons of water for both us and the Community. The old tank was completely drained on Oct. 28, 2024. Thanks to you, my friends.

Staff training is going on behind the scenes as well. Last month we had a wonderful morning of Fire Training. This month we took a morning to review how to change tires and put chains on our vehicles as we have no 4 wheel drive vehicles. Safety kits were placed in each vehicle and we made sure each vehicle has a spare and a jack. The day was perfect for the training and we all had fun. We have moved on to appointing an Emergency Preparedness Committee. We have taken inventory of some of our food that could be used in case of emergency and have created a list of needed items in case of a crisis either here at the Mission or nearby.

God Bless each of you. Thank you for your continued prayers and donations.

- Lee McIntosh



Groundbreaking Ceremony for Diné Adventist Radio



Steve Pester, Anita Jones and her son, Kietel Jones, Oliver Fulton, and Beth and VJ Panganiban drove to the top of Black Mesa near the center of the Navajo Nation, where the tower for DAR's flagship station, KDHP 91.9 FM, will soon be erected. They were able to have a prayer walk with Navajo church members and have a Ground Breaking Ceremony before construction crews arrived. Please pray that the good weather lasts so

that the unpaved road to this remote location will remain accessible until construction is completed. If all goes well, they can flip the power on by Christmas and begin broadcasting from the first of many stations. Reaching Hearts on the Navajo Nation. We are truly grateful for the invitation and the experience we had, working together with my husband for the Lord. Let's continue to pray for the upcoming grand opening of 24/7 Dine Adventist Radio at Gallup All Nations SDA church. The LVM students and staff are honored to be part of this event, especially through our music ministry.



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.

Grateful for the Gift of Music:

A Heartfelt Thank You to Pueblo SDA Church and School

We would like to extend our heartfelt thanks to Pueblo Seventh-day Adventist Church and School for their generous donation of 3 octaves of tone chimes, wooden stands, gloves, music scores, and foam pads. This thoughtful gift will greatly enhance our music program, providing our students with valuable opportunities to grow in their musical talents and share the joy of music with others. The students had the privilege of using these newly donated tone chimes during our church visitation at Rio Rancho SDA Church on November 16, 2024, and it was an uplifting experience for all involved.

If you have any instruments, such as ukuleles, guitars, gold handbells, or others, that you are not using, we would be delighted to accept them to further equip our students in their musical training for God's service.

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 a 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
Bern Bliss
Meredith Genton
Pastor Stephen Gillham
Wayne Hyatt
Helen Johnston
Bob & Mary Lee
Art & Barry Lizer
Jose Lopez
Walter Maier
Larry McCoy
Brenda McDonald
Fleta Oliver
Gail Reece
Miriam Sammer
Nobert Sammer
Sam Small
Kenneth Smith
Donna Wollmann
Lydia Wood

by Lanny & Barbara Davis
by Simon Elloway
by Marc Genton
by Carol Gillham
by Lynette Hyatt
by David & Elizabeth
by Lynette Hyatt
by Oradelle Lizer
by Diane Lopez
by Mabel Maier
by Nancy McCoy-Wearner
by Pat & Rhonda McDonald
by Mr. & Mrs. Jack Wood
by Ruth & David Reece
by Marc Genton
by Marc Genton
by Jackie Small
by Lola Smith
by Pauline White
by Mr. & Mrs. Jack Wood

In Honor of

Verneda Bayless
Doc Buell

by Rusk Family Charitable Fund
by Bruce Hermsdorfer

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 produce and cleaning supplies.

•**Lanea Bulkin & Karlette Winters** for 4 boxes of knitting/crocheting yarn.

•**Daniel and Sonia Cervantes & Rio Grande Church** for health and hygiene stuff, groceries and other items.

Pathfinder Induction Ceremony

The following week after the Pathfinder Leadership Convention, was our Induction Ceremony, September 27, 2024, at 3:30 p.m. It was a successful program through the help of LVM staff, Admin, and our guest speaker, MG Cheryl Marie S. Maghinay, together with her husband, MG Ruben Maghinay. It was themed "Believe the Promise" specifically in the life of Moses. We are more than blessed and grateful for the inspiring message she shared with the brethren, pathfinders, and master guides. The Pathfinders were encouraged to continue to claim and believe in the Lord's promises especially after attending the International Pathfinder Camporee in Gilette, Wyoming.

- Beth Panganiban



Second Fundraiser for the School Educational Fieldtrip to Albuquerque

By Cielo Domino

William Shakespeare's play, "All's Well That Ends Well", became a popular phrase, and that phrase has been proven to be true time and again. Sunday's activity (November 17), echoes this phrase with a twist. All is well that ends well when God is there. The second fundraiser event held in Crownpoint ended well. Although the total amount from the food sale did not exceed the first food sale, we still celebrated and considered it a success.

The experience of selling in town was new to La Vida Mission, but the students received more knowledge in dealing with the different drive-thru customers. For some staff members, it was a great blessing to pray with and pray for some of those who supported our fundraiser.

The event was well-supported by all La Vida Mission residents including the dormitory residents.

The chilly weather did not dampen our warm hearts knowing that at the end of the day, we will surmount the challenges with united spirit of love, patience, and understanding toward each other.

It is our fervent prayer, and we request you to pray for us as well, that we will come up with the needed amount to take our children to an educational fieldtrip to Albuquerque on April 2025.

Thank you for your prayers, gifts, and financial support.

-- 1 Peter 5:7 (ICB) Give all your worries to Him, because He cares for you.



The Parable of the Long Spoons

Have you ever heard that story about a feast where no one can eat because the utensils are too long? It's called the allegory or parable of the spoons. The story is present in many cultures: Asian countries feature chopsticks instead of spoons. I am convinced that the reason we are called to spread the Good News of the Gospel is that we cannot give ourselves the food we need to grow in Jesus.

The importance of witnessing was served to us as we handed out home-cooked food to customers at our second food fundraiser in Crown Point, New Mexico, Sunday, November 17, 2024.

Before we were even ready to take orders a very tall Dine' man handed us \$20, saying it was a contribution! He said he was on the way to Farmington with his son for a special dinner. The son had been unable to take him out on their annual Veterans' Day celebration last week, so today was the day.

He went on to tell of his experience in the Marine Corps twenty years ago. He was only 18 or 19 years old and already a father. Rigorously training on steep mountains next to the sea on the California coast, loaded with the 50-70 pounds of equipment typically carried during training, he stopped. He said that his knees were shaking; he could not take another step.

A calm came over him. He saw the bright moon and the ocean below and was unafraid. Then his friend who was next in line ahead of him reached out his hand and took the end of his rifle, pulling him up. He went on to tell of other terrifying experiences in his service. "I know that it's a part of the government," he struggled for the words to express what followed, "but I am telling you Marines believe in God."

He showed me two books that he had found that deal with emotional and spiritual matters. His face seemed almost to shine when he said that this was a first step for him to help his children in this particular way. We promised that we would pray every day, by name, for the three of them: father, son and daughter.

So you can see that our fundraising was a feast that can last for eternity.

-Ms. Claire

Boy's Dorm Leads Campus Worship

As a dorm assistant for the Boys' Dorm, I sometimes help them as they prepare for our Tuesday morning Campus Worship. So I prepared by first searching Google using the term "Bible stories for kids." The boys led a song service with "Jesus Loves Me" and "I Have Decided to Follow Jesus" in English and Dine' Bizaad. (Navajo)

One boy asked for prayer requests and prayed to open our time with the Lord. He also read the devotional selection, "What It Means to Become a Christian". The reading repeatedly pointed out that we will make mistakes, but Jesus is still there.

There was some discussion, and we were dismissed with prayer.

-NaTavia

