

Navajo News



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

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505-786-5539

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2024 Annual Community Christmas Fiesta

"We had fun." "The food was delicious." "The staff are friendly and helpful." "It's a nice event, thank you." "Thank you so much for what this mission does. Always caring & loving." These are some of the comments from our community friends who were blessed by this Annual Christmas Fiesta and Propane Give-away on December 17, 2024.

All our services were scheduled to begin at 10 in the morning, but trucks had been in line for propane refill as early as 6:30 am and they kept coming and filling the whole Country Road 7730 to the Mission. The day officially started for the La Vida Mission students and staff at a joint-morning worship in the gym at 9:00 in the morning led by Emily Lowe and the Boys' Dorm. Other activities and services that were offered were a "Free Flea Market" with a welcome booth for a wool blanket, Steps to Christ and other spiritual books and a raffle ticket for tons of door prizes from our Mission donors, all-day refreshments, Christmas Dinner and Christmas Fry bread (thanks to Renita and Reva for these), and many loaves of bread and assorted bakery products, compliments of Bimbo Bakeries. Before noon, at 11:30 am, we stopped all activities in the gym and invited everyone to take a seat for the Christmas messages and prayers delivered by some La Vida staff, such as Dorie, Danita, and Kim, reminding everyone that while we offer them all kinds of gifts, we always want to offer and share with them the greatest gift of all, Jesus and letting them know that Jesus can change our lives and make it better, and encouraging everyone to be close to God and prepare for the second Christmas, the second coming of Jesus which is very soon. This was followed by the Fellowship Christmas lunch with continued drawing of raffle tickets

for door prizes. As if all the events were not enough and it seemed like students and staff were still not tired because they lingered for more games after we cleaned the gym, led by Beth, Cielo and Glet.

This one community event of the Mission for our native family is a corporate effort of all La Vida Mission staff, with some of our donors, designed to continue to share the love of Jesus to the Diné (the Navajo people) and everyone around us. Please continue to include us in your prayers that we may always shine for Him and spread His love to everyone. Thank you from Dorie with VJ & Beth, co-outreach directors, who directed this event.



From the Director's Desk:

Dear La Vida Friends,

I hope each of you had very nice holiday! However, I know the holidays can be the most depressing and loneliest time of year for many. At a certain point in my life, I used to dread the well-intentioned question so full of goodwill, "How was your holiday?!" So if you, Dear Reader, can relate, my heart goes out to you in a special way, and my chosen scriptures below are for you. May God bring comfort and refreshing to your heart.

The last month of 2024 was another very busy month! La Vida staff and students worked together throughout December to prepare for three special occasions: the Diné Adventist Radio (DAR) dedication held in Gallup; La Vida's Annual Community Christmas Fiesta; and our Dec. 21 Sabbath Christmas program. Everyone jumped in to help with organizing, decorating, song practice, food prep and gift wrapping. You can read more about these exciting events throughout this newsletter edition.

As mentioned in last month's newsletter, we are in great need of committed SDA Christians to fill two critical positions: Maintenance Manager and Office Manager/Bookkeeper. If the Lord is calling you, please do not hesitate to reach out to me for more information: 505-786-3004 or kim@lavidamission.org.

We are also in need of at least one or two reliable 4-wheel drive vehicles, as well as monetary donations to help us make ends meet. Every little bit helps and we are so grateful to our donors.

The Lord has truly 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 of you whose hearts are stirred to help La Vida continue serving the Navajo people for the Kingdom. Huge thanks to each of you for your ongoing support.

In closing, I hope and pray that this newsletter finds each of you closer than ever to our Lord Jesus Christ as we see the Day of the Lord rapidly approaching. Please pray for our church members, students and their families – those who are currently enrolled, and those who have moved on. As I have mentioned before, the need across the Navajo Nation is truly incredible. Please pray for the Lord to send more workers swiftly, and for the Holy Spirit to reach every heart bound in chains of darkness and despair.

Huge thanks to each of you for your prayers and support of La Vida Mission. May God Richly Bless You.

Warm Regards,
Kim

"The Lord is near to the brokenhearted and saves the crushed in spirit." (Psalm 34:18)

"Fear not, for I am with you; Be not dismayed, for I am your God. I will strengthen you, Yes, I will help you, I will uphold you with My righteous right hand." (Isaiah 41:10)

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La Vida Mission, a supporting ministry of The Seventh-day Adventist Church, serves the Eastern Navajo Nation. It operates a K-12 Boarding school for Navajo 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 Mexico.

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We also had a Gingerbread House contest. Wow! What talented and creative contestants! I am glad I wasn't the judge, I would never have been able to choose the best, they were all great!



Notes from the Fix-it Shop

Hello dear brothers and sisters! I pray you are all well and are looking forward to another wonderful year in 2025.

This is a short article but very praise worthy. The La Vida Maintenance Team was able to get two large loads of firewood from Aspen Woods near Dolores, CO thanks to Norman Butler, one of our Constituents. This firewood will help keep our propane costs down for the winter.

Recently the elementary school sewer system was found to be completely plugged. We have moved the students and staff to the administration building until repairs can be made.

I want to thank everyone who has prayed and donated to La Vida Mission throughout 2024.

God Bless you all!
Lee McIntosh

Our School Christmas Program

La Vida Mission had a wonderful time through the month of December. All the donations from everywhere were a very amazing blessing. The students loved the events going on and the weekend school. Preparing for the Christmas Fiesta was a huge accomplishment for all of us. We worked together and got it done, the students were a big help. The Fiesta was a success and a beautiful day. So many people came from the local community and also from afar to join us. They had smiles on their faces and joy in their hearts that was a blessing to see.

Also the Christmas Program was a huge success and a beautifully well done program. The staff and students did such an amazing job of decorating and with the play. Lots of people enjoyed the program, families and our congregation attended to see the students perform. We have had such a wonderful time with these two events and learning along the way, growing our connection with God.

- Ms. Cielo



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.

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 an office manager/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

Virgil Allen	by Marcia Allen
George & Margaret Armstong	by Lanny & Barbara Davis
Minnie Dieter	by Phil & Audine Dieter
Margaret Ewing	by David & Elizabeth Johnston
Lannie Foxworthy	by Patricia Watts
Meredith Genton	by Marc Genton
Pastor Stephen Gillham	by Carol Gillham
Leroy Hallock	by Lawrence Hallock
Jeanette Kunae Hanlon	by Jackie Small
Ethel Higgins	by Phil & Audine Dieter
Wayne Hyatt	by Lynette Hyatt
Douglas Johnston	by David & Elizabeth Johnston
Art & Barry Lizer	by Oradelle Lizer
James C. Maxwell	by Ann Maxwell
Larry McCoy	by Nancy McCoy-Wearner
Pat & Brenda McDonald	by Rhonda McDonald
Fleta Oliver	by Mr. & Mrs. Jack Wood
Smith, Kenneth Smith	by Lola Smith
Jennie Terrell	by Linda Waltman
Lance Turner	by Jim & Shirley Turner
Lydia Brooke Wood	by Mr. & Mrs. Jack Wood
John Young	by Therissa Young

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.

• **Linda Rickaby** for knitted baby beanie hats.

Thanksgiving Drive-Thru Dinner and More, with Glendale Adventist Academy

"Thanksgiving Drive-thru Dinner? Why Drive-thru?" asked one of the community members who messaged one of the Mission staff. Indeed, why drive-thru? We have done drive-thru food boxes and produce give away, drive thru free propane refill, drive-thru covid test and more, but definitely not Drive-thru Thanksgiving Dinner. Well, we wanted our Mission Group guests, who wanted to do some outreach programs, experience how it is possible to reach out to the community. But, because our school cafeteria or the church fellowship hall is too small to hold a large number of participants, and our gym, while big, was full of donated items for our Christmas Fiesta at that time, we thought of a Drive-thru Meal to still be able to serve our local neighbors. The one-hour Sabbath afternoon give-away went quickly with around 150 Thanksgiving drive-thru tray meals served. When no more community members were coming but there were about twenty more trays left, we divided the Mission Guests into 3 groups led by La Vida staff and decided to visit local members to deliver those meals. Our guests loved it even more because they got the chance, not just to deliver the food trays, but to visit, sing, and pray with them too.



It was only a short visit from Glendale Adventist Academy Mission Group but they were a big boost and lift to us in accomplishing some projects. They arrived Friday afternoon, Nov. 22 and led out in the Church Services both in La Vida Mission Church and at Crownpoint Fellowship Group the following day, Sabbath. On Sunday and Monday, Nov. 24 and 25, their activities were cleaning, organizing, and preparing the donations in the gym for our Annual Christmas Fiesta, splitting fire wood for our staff housings' use, weeding and cleaning the greenhouse, fixing some broken tables, checking on a couple of our vehicles and filling up ditches in our rain-damaged road. What a blessing!

It was fun working with this group of thirty-five young people and adults whose love for Jesus exceeds their love for pleasure and personal fun during the Thanksgiving break. Thank you, Pastor Jonny Moor, Ms. Norie Grace Lorentz, students and parents from Glendale Adventist Academy for your visit and services. May more churches and schools get inspired to come visit La Vida Mission like you did.

– Dorie Panganiban



Diné Adventist Radio's Grand Day

In 2020, God in His great love and mercy for all people and kindred, and tongues, and nations, made the humble beginning of the Diné Adventist Radio possible. Diné Adventist Radio is a Christian radio network that serves the people of the Navajo Nation with programming designed to help them experience total well-being in their health, their families and their faith.

December 8, 2024 was a real grand day for Diné Adventist Radio. From the time of its birth in 2020, DAR Management and all the people behind it, have prayed that one day it would go on the air 24/7, broadcasting and bringing the wonderful love of Jesus across the Navajo Nation and beyond. This day, that dream has come into fruition with the 24/7 broadcast of the good news in sight and just around the corner.

Present for the celebration were our leaders from AWR (Ambassador Allen Steele); NAD (Assistant to the President Rick Remmers), Arizona Conference (Treasurer Reggie Leach), Texico Conference (President Lee-Roy Chacon), Board Members of Diné Adventist Radio, church members, supporters, some listeners of DAR, and Holbrook Indian School and La Vida Mission School Choirs, who offered special music during the program. The event was spearheaded by DAR Network Manager Steve Pester, AZ Native Ministries Coordinator, Pastor Dale Wolcott, with the help of Gallup, Window Rock and other churches and ministries from the area. As Steve Pester said, "The Grand Opening was a true celebration of partnership with everyone involved. It truly felt like what Heaven will be like! So encouraging and inspiring!"



The DAR logo was also presented by DAR manager during the program. He explained that it was "created by DAR Network Program Director, Kenneth Kirtley with his wife, Misty, who suggested the background which is the base of it. The background of the logo is the Navajo Wedding Basket that helps us to remember that Christ is our groom, and we are His Bride and He's coming back for us! It shows us the Love and Unity and best wishes from the Maker, and what He wants for us, eternal life with Him. The basket is woven, which symbolizes the weaving together of lives, families and communities. And radio will be able to do that for this community. The stepped or terraced design represents the traditional Navajo Dwelling, the Hogan, which helps us think about the dwelling house the Lord has promised us in Heaven. The arrows on either side of the logo represent the fletching on the arrow that gives it direction as it flies. God gives us our directions; we only need follow. Finally, the most important part is the turquoise fingers on each side. One side is the 3 Angels message, the other side is the Trinity. Together, the two symbols are holding up the Diné – the Navajo – as a people and the Diné Adventist Radio network".

For now, Steve praises the Lord that "the tower for KDHP - 91.9 FM near Pinon, is stacked and standing there, 199 feet tall, pointing to Heaven, signaling that we're another step closer to having radio waves flowing off that tower, pointing people to Jesus. The building that God provided is in place and the next steps are getting the antenna mounted, the feed line attached, the transmitter, internet and backup generator installed". He asked us to keep the whole process in our prayers!

To learn more, visit www.dineadventistradio.org.

– Dorie Panganiban