

Navajo News

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

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Summer 2023 Vacation Bible School and Healthy Cooking Class

Matthew 19:13-15 (NIV) records a story about the little children and Jesus saying: "13 Then people brought little children to Jesus for him to place his hands on them and pray for them. But the disciples rebuked them. 14 Jesus said, 'Let the little children come to me, and do not hinder them, for the kingdom of heaven belongs to such as these.' 15 When he had placed his hands on them, he went on from there." Inspired by Jesus' love and genuine concern for the little children and their mothers as expressed in these verses, La Vida Mission combined forces with the Mission Group from Oceanside, California in conducting a 3-afternoon VBS in Crownpoint, NM on Monday, Tuesday and Thursday of June 26, 27, and 29.

La Vida Mission staff went to Crownpoint every Tuesday and Thursday afternoon of June to prepare for the event, distributing flyers and invitations and handing out "Great Controversy" and "Walking with Jesus" books in town. We were hoping more parents would respond and send their children but we are delighted with all the children and mothers who came. While the children were enjoying



the outdoor VBS, the mothers, with a couple of fathers, were inside the church building learning the healthy way of simple cooking led by Ms. Dorie and myself (Beth), with help from some La Vida ladies. They were all surprised at how vegetables like cabbage and carrots could be made into meatless meat patties which they all said tasted so good, how potato-carrots-peppers pizza was as delicious as the pizza they're used to eating and how rice could be made into caffeine-free coffee. The fun part was always the return demo where the participants, divided into two groups, did the cooking themselves and divided the finished products among themselves. These parents were not only blessed by the material food but by the spiritual food in the devotional messages shared by Pastor Eddie Dopp, pastor of Oceanside SDA Church.

These two events proved to be a great blessing to children and adults alike. But it was even a greater blessing to have the Oceanside Mission Group come and boost our efforts and provide the much needed and appreciated reinforcement. The pictures can't express enough how happy our community children were with the mission group. The children enjoyed meeting them and playing games with them, listening to stories and learning more about Jesus by watching live Bible skits in full costume by the youth members of the group and many more.

We truly thank and praise the Lord for the Oceanside mission group who dedicated their time and effort to conduct the VBS program that made a life changing impact to our community kids. We are also thankful for the support of the parents of the kids who entrusted them to us. We hope and pray that those kids who attended the pro-

gram will continue to be a blessing and a light to their families.

And before I forget, every morning during the whole week that the Mission group was here, they joined and helped our La Vida staff in their respective assigned FCO (Fix, Clean and Organize) work site. What a blessing indeed they were!

If you want to have an experience of a lifetime, you may also organize a mission group in your church and school and plan to come and visit us in La Vida Mission.

— VJ & Beth Panganiban



"Come On Down"

This summer of 2023, we were all busy at the Mission, fixing, cleaning and organizing the whole campus, going from building to building and working together as an FCO (Fix, Clean, Organize) Team in the mornings, working in our respective areas on Monday and Wednesday afternoons and going out for outreach Tuesday and Thursday afternoons, doing Bible study, going door to door and helping at VBS and other outreach activities, like Healthy Cooking Class, for the community.

One Thursday afternoon, we went to one housing area in Crownpoint, going door to door and passing out the books "Great Controversy" and "Walking with Jesus" written in English and Navajo. In the first house that my companion and I went, the guy was under his vehicle fixing it but he asked us to go around. When I told him that we're from La Vida Mission and we're giving out books and invitations for VBS, the guy without seeing me said, "Oh, La Vida Mission, I know you". I asked repeating his statement, "oh you know me?" and he replied quickly, "you gave us Bible studies every Wednesday afternoons in the jail, remember?" I assumed that that's why he recognized me without seeing me, probably because of my Filipino accent that he heard every week. We visited for a while and he asked if we're still going to the jail because he said we're doing a good job there. I told him that we stopped during pandemic and have not come back yet. He was happy to receive the books and we left and went door to door again. But because there were lots of loose barking dogs, I suggested to the team that we move to another housing area and we did. As we were closing our day, we saw one last house and I told my companion that we will finish with that one house. Knocking at their door, I recognized the owner of the house as the Lieutenant in charge of the jail where we used to do our Jail Ministry. He recognized me as well and we reminisced about our work in the jail before pandemic. Then he told me in a positive and happy encouraging tone, "Come on down". He told me that they're open again for ministries like ours, but some people are still scared to come. So, he once again said, "Come on down" and asked me to just give him a call when we're ready. Therefore, our Mission and Church Outreach director told me that we should plan to go back and do our jail ministry again because the Lord is opening the door and working things out for us in a marvelous way that we have not even thought of. Please continue to join us in prayers as we go back to all our normal schedules at the Mission, both for the school and our church and outreach. – Dorie Panganiban

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Donation Information

Make checks payable to:

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La Vida Missions, Inc. is a

nonprofit corporation of New Mexico.

Water Project Update

We are blessed to report that donations to this critical project have increased this past month. Our total income = \$137,802, Paid expenses = \$45,841 leaving a subtotal of \$91,961. There is an outstanding invoice in the amount of \$12,832.50 which will be paid in July for the geotechnical engineering report on the site proposed for the new water tank. Once that invoice is paid, the total left in the fund will equal \$79,128.50. Our total income that the project needs is \$161,000 but as you can see, we are approaching that goal thanks to you generous donors. Praise the Lord!

The geotechnical engineering report also includes geotechnical recommendations, site plan, boring records, and laboratory test results. Other design and construction details, based upon geotechnical conditionals are presented in the report. The field tests were performed on May 10, 2023, by drilling two (2) exploratory borings at the proposed site to 25 feet below the existing ground surface. The opinion of the geotechnical report is that the site is considered suitable for the proposed structure (the tank). Any excavation at the site will be possible using standard excavation equipment.

Additionally, I received the Chlorination Plan from D & R Tank Company for our new water storage tank that measures 12' Diameter X 22' Height with capacity of 18,000 gallons and the engineered specifications for the foundation for the new tank.

As you can see, the project is moving along. All engineering designs will have to be approved by the State of New Mexico. Once approved, construction will take place.

Thank you again for your generous donations to this much needed project. With the new tank installed, La Vida Mission will continue to be able to provide free water to both the Mission and to our neighbors.

May God bless each of you richly!

Lee McIntosh, Water Project Manager



A note from our Treasurer:

As you so generously donate to our special projects, please remember our operating expenses. We are now using our reserve funds to pay our expenses, having used up 20% of the reserves. We need more staff, but cannot afford to hire them if funding doesn't return to a normal level. Please prayerfully consider donating and please pray that God will inspire others to do so as well. We know He has the resources to supply our needs and we ask for prayers that His will be done. Thank you all!!

New Director Sought for La Vida Mission

As you have read in a previous article, our interim Director, Mr. Vorhies, has resigned and we are looking for a permanent director to lead God's mission here at La Vida. We have prayed about the matter extensively, knowing that God has the right person to fill this vacancy. This is a vital position, to lead our staff, students and community forward, overcoming the various challenges, both large and small, that we will face in the coming years. Your trust in God will grow as you experience the many answers to prayer that occur in response to those challenges.

What are we looking for in our new leader?

A strong spiritual leader, a man or woman of God and one who will consider the post as a "calling". Someone who always seeks to be in the center of God's will.

An ability to work with people from a different culture with openness and understanding.

A Seventh-Day Adventist Church Member in good standing, supportive of and recognizing the authority of the SDA Church.

Has some leadership experience in church, school and/or a non-profit organization, is a team player and willing to work with the President and the Board. Has respect for other staff members and open to learning from their experiences.

A good steward, practical with finances and careful with the money entrusted to us by our donors.

Able to make at least a 3 year commitment.

For more information, please contact us and we will be happy to further discuss this opportunity with you. Email: office@lavidamission.org. Call 505-786-5539 or 505-786-3001, or mail to P. O. Box 3308, Farmington, NM 87499. An application has been uploaded to our website for your convenience. It is on the home page, scroll down to where it says - on the right - "For Immediate Hiring", right below that picture is a link to the application.

There will be other openings as well, if you feel God's leading, please contact us as we look forward to the next school year.

Thank you for joining us in prayer for God's will to be done in this and every aspect of our ministry.



Despite all the work that Oceanside Mission Group accomplished, there was still some time and energy left for recreation!

In Memory of

George & Margaret Armstrong
Bern Bliss
Hydia Brooke
Lita Castillo
Arloe Goley
Debbie Hainly
Juanita Kunau Hanlan
Wayne Hyatt
Robert & Mary Lee
Albert Lind
Barry & Art Lizer
Max & Mary Martinez
Larry McCoy
Brenda McDonald
Fleta Oliver
Frank Putnam
Sam Small
Kenneth Smith

by Lanny & Barbara Davis
by Simon Elloway
by Mr. & Mrs. Jack Wood
by Emilio & Sal Fariaz
by John Goley
by Anonymous
by Sam Small
by Lynette Hyatt
by Lynette Hyatt
by Margaret Lind
by Oradelle Lizer
by Mr. & Mrs. Bob Garcia
by Nancy McCoy
by Pat & Rhonda McDonald
by Mr. & Mrs. Jack Wood
by Clare Putnam
by Jackie Small
by Lola Smith

In Honor of

Irene Kalina

by Andrew Kalina

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 vegetables.

•**Partnership with Native Americans** for food for the community food pantry.

•**Oceanside SDA mission group** for leading the VBS in Crownpoint SDA Church and for organizing and cleaning the different buildings of the mission (Clinic, school, greenhouse, dorms & pathfinder room in the gym etc.)

Thank You, Oceanside SDA Church Mission

"Well" finally (pun intended). We have one! Thank you Oceanside SDA Church!!!

We have been needing a lean-to on the side of the well house for a long time. Its purpose is to house the back up generator for the well when we have long periods of electrical outages. We have those every so often. We could make it without electricity but just like in our spiritual lives, we all need the water, The Water of Life.

Just as we have a back up plan for bad times, I encourage us all to build a back up plan for that water in your spiritual life by reading the Word everyday. We are told that there is a famine coming, not for water but for the Word of God. And we will need that back up plan in those hard times.

Thank you so much to all of you who support us through what ever means is possible for you. Be it monetary or by keeping La Vida Mission and the LVM family a focus in your prayers. We all appreciate it very much from the bottom of our hearts.

Please not only continue to keep us in prayer but please keep the young people who come in these Mission groups in your prayers as well. The highway of blessings is a two way street. Not only do we receive a blessing from them but we pray that they have received a blessing from their efforts as well.

God is good,

Thank you,
Maintenance team.



In addition to working on the lean-to for the well house, the mission group replaced the wooden frames for the garden beds in our greenhouse. The greenhouse is a blessing to us, helping us grow a variety of vegetables and the upkeep is vital to the continued use of the buildings. We don't have an Agricultural Manager at the moment, so everyone chips in as they are able, but sometimes the work is delayed when staff members are busy elsewhere.

Another important part of any mission group is the worship time. Our staff members appreciate the opportunity to join with our visitors to worship our Lord and Creator!



Maintenance Assistant Position Open

La Vida Mission is seeking to hire a qualified, Christ-centered Maintenance Assistant effective immediately. This position is full-time with a stipend, housing, utilities, food benefits and a request for a minimum of a three year commitment to the right person with the qualifications and experience. Duties include helping the maintenance director complete maintenance requests from campus personnel. Upkeep and repair of campus facilities, which include carpentry, plumbing, electrical, drywall, minor appliance repair, basic equipment maintenance, and other general maintenance items. Candidates must be a team player with a willingness to learn, be self-motivated, aware of his/her surroundings and able to exercise common sense. This position is open until filled. LVM is a dedicated ministry to its surrounding community with an outreach department, church & school which the entire staff is a part of by being a team player. As in many other SDA boarding schools, employees live in on-campus housing. The average student population at LVM is between 18 to 25 students.

Experience: Candidates must be at least 21 years old and have a good driving record. Preference will be given to candidates that have previous experience in general maintenance and vehicle repair/maintenance. Proficiency in construction, plumbing is a plus. A bonus opportunity to the right person will be free schooling and training to become a level 1, 2 or 3 water operator. An experience that can be of good use here and in future employment opportunities.

Thank you and God bless!

Please respond to this ad by:
Email John@lavidamission.org
Call main office: 505-786-5539
Call Maintenance office 505-786-3002